|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Common ostrich**  **Temporal range: 15–0 [Ma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megaannum" \o "Megaannum)**  **Early [Miocene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miocene" \o "Miocene)-[Present](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocene" \o "Holocene)** | |
| [D:\midterm-assi\birds\ostrich1.jpgostrich1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Struthio_camelus_-_Etosha_2014_(3).jpg) | |
| [South African ostrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_ostrich" \o "South African ostrich) male (left) and females (*S. camelus australis*) | |
| **[Scientific classification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology)" \o "Taxonomy (biology))[IMG_258](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Taxonomy/Struthio)** | |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal" \o "Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate" \o "Chordate) |
| Class: | [Aves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bird" \o "Bird) |
| Order: | [Struthioniformes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Struthionidae" \o "Struthionidae) |
| Family: | [Struthionidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Struthionidae" \o "Struthionidae) |
| Genus: | *[Struthio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrich" \o "Ostrich)* |
| Species: | ***S. camelus*** |
| **[Binomial name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binomial_nomenclature" \o "Binomial nomenclature)** | |
| ***Struthio camelus***  [Linnaeus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Linnaeus" \o "Carl Linnaeus), [1758](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_edition_of_Systema_Naturae" \o "10th edition of Systema Naturae)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_ostrich" \l "cite_note-SN-2) | |

**OSTRICH**

The **common ostrich** (*Struthio camelus*) or simply **ostrich**, is a [species](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species" \o "Species) of large [flightless bird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flightless_bird" \o "Flightless bird) native to certain large areas of [Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Africa" \o "Africa). It is one of two extant species of [ostriches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ostrich" \o "Ostrich), the only living members of the [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus" \o "Genus) *[Struthio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Struthio" \o "Struthio)* in the [ratite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratite" \o "Ratite) order of birds. The other is the [Somali ostrich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somali_ostrich" \o "Somali ostrich) (*Struthio molybdophanes*), which was recognized as a distinct species by [BirdLife International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BirdLife_International" \o "BirdLife International) in 2014 having been previously considered a very distinctive subspecies of ostrich.

The common ostrich's diet consists mainly of plant matter, though it also eats [invertebrates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invertebrate" \o "Invertebrate). It lives in nomadic groups of 5 to 50 birds. When threatened, the ostrich will either hide itself by lying flat against the ground, or run away. If cornered, it can attack with a kick of its powerful legs. Mating patterns differ by geographical region, but territorial males fight for a harem of two to seven females.