

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

15 cm

INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND

Chaffinches are sparrow-sized finches with brown, black, grey and (in the male) pinkish brown plumage. They have conspicuous white bars on the shoulder and the wing. Native to Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and western and central Asia, chaffinches were introduced to mainland New Zealand by Acclimatisation Societies during the late 1800s, and colonised the Chatham Islands before 1950. They are widespread in New Zealand, including Chatham and Pitt Islands, Rangatira, Mangere, and Tapuaenuku.



Above: Female chaffinch.
Photo: Mike Soper (DOC).
Right: Male chaffinch at
nest. Photo: T. Smith (DOC).