

## Blackbird *Turdus merula*

25 cm

### INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND AND CHATHAMS

Adult males are entirely black with a bright orange-yellow bill and eye-ring. Females are dark brown with a duller orange bill. The blackbirds' natural range includes Europe, northwest Africa, northern parts of Asia, and China. About 1000 birds were released in mainland New Zealand by Acclimatisation Societies. By 1900 they were widely distributed throughout the country, including the Chatham Islands, where they were introduced by Walter Hood. They are found on Chatham and Pitt Islands, Rangatira, Mangere, and Tapuaenuku, occurring in forests as well as farmland.



Right: Male blackbird at nest. Photo: Peter Reese.

Far right: Adult female blackbird.

Photo: Rod Morris (DOC).