

Text and images extracted from Aikman, H. & Miskelly, C. (2004).
Birds of the Chatham Islands. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
Page 76.

House sparrow *Passer domesticus*

14 cm

INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND

House sparrows are a common associate of humans throughout much of the world. Males have a chestnut-and-black back with grey-white underparts and a black bib. Females are a lighter brown. House sparrows were introduced to New Zealand, and colonised the Chatham Islands about 1880. They are found on Chatham and Pitt Islands, and occasionally Rangatira, usually close to dwellings.



Adult male house sparrow.
Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.