

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Chaffinch: pp 237-238.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Linnaeus 1758

1862 Nelson

Self-introduced May 2001 Norfolk Island

It is probably the most successful introduction, but struggled to establish in some areas initially.

“The chaffinch, a seed-eating bird, thrived splendidly at first, but, so far as the neighbourhood of Dunedin is concerned, has almost died out. For some years the bush at the Glen used to be full of them, and their sharp, bright little song was pleasant to the ear; but they are now all gone—why or wherefore I cannot tell. I saw a few at Moeraki some years ago, and also more recently at Banks Peninsula, but in neither locality were they at all numerous.” (Bathgate 1897)

