

Text and images extracted from Aikman, H. & Miskelly, C. (2004).
Birds of the Chatham Islands. Department of Conservation, Wellington.
Page 73.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

16 cm

INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND

Yellowhammers are sparrow-sized with reddish-brown upperparts and yellow faces and bellies. Their natural range is from Britain to Siberia. About 500 were introduced to mainland New Zealand in the 1870s and 1880s, and they colonised the Chatham Islands about 1910. Yellowhammers inhabit open country, but they are very rare on Chatham and Pitt Islands, and may not have a resident population.



Male yellowhammer.
Photo: Rod Morris (DOC).