

## Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

14 cm

### INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND

Also known as hedge sparrow, though not related to true sparrows. Both sexes are dainty, slim birds with dark brown backs and a grey wash on the head and breast. Hundreds of dunnocks were introduced to mainland New Zealand in the 1860-80s, and from there flew to many outlying island groups, arriving on the Chatham Islands before 1950.

Although inconspicuous, dunnocks are very abundant on the Chatham Islands, occurring in rough farmland, shrubland, and forests on Chatham and Pitt Islands, Rangatira, Mangere, and Tapuaenuku.



Dunnock at nest.  
Photo: Mike Soper (DOC).