



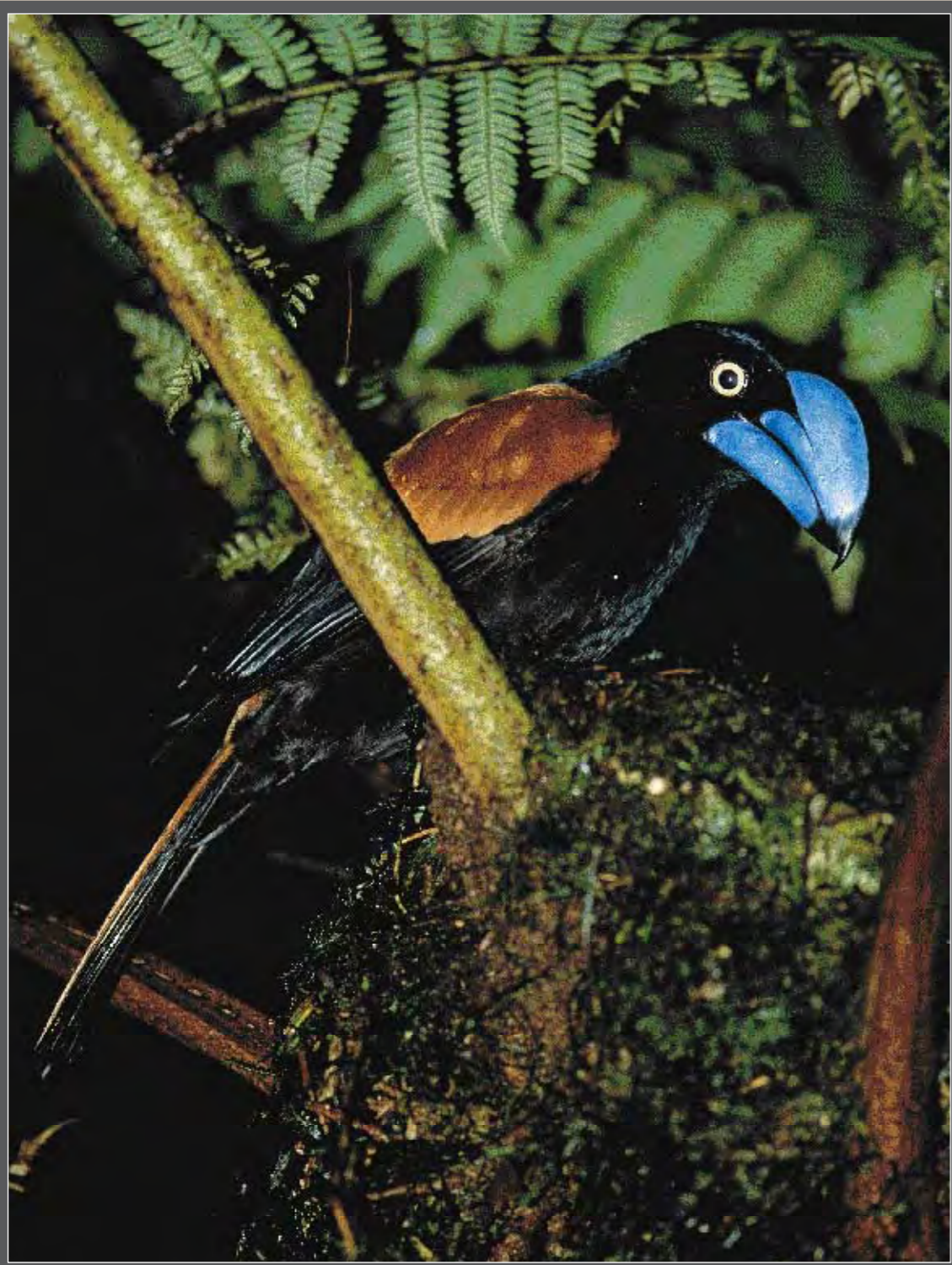
MADAGASCAR PORTFOLIO

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Opposite *The coloration of the male Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone mutata is very variable, ranging from black and white, through intermediates, to black and rufous. It is a common and widespread species in Madagascar, also occurring in the Comores.*

Above *The Yellow-bellied Sunbird-Asity Neodrepanis hypoxantha (female shown here) is an uncommon bird confined to the eastern forests. It is one of only four members of the family Philepittidae, all of which are endemic to Madagascar.*



NICK GARBUTT

Above A highlight of any Madagascan birding trip is a glimpse of the brilliantly and distinctively coloured Helmet Vanga *Euryceros prevostii*. It is an uncommon and elusive species, found only in the undisturbed primary rainforests of the north-east.

Right The Sickle-billed Vanga *Falco pelliata* is a noisy, group-living species. Flocks of these birds are frequently accompanied by one or two White-headed Vangas *Leptopterus viridis*, a similarly coloured but shorter-billed species.





Above *The leaf-litter below the deciduous and gallery forests of the west, and even in dry thorn scrub, is the hunting ground of the Giant Coua *Coua gigas*, the largest of Madagascar's 10 coua species. It forages for insects on the ground, but builds its nest up to 10 metres above ground in a tree.*

Right *The Madagascar Buzzard *Buteo brachypterus* is primarily a forest species. However, it has adapted well to life in degraded woodlands and is common over much of the island.*





Henst's Goshawk Accipiter hentsii is a huge forest hawk. It is almost as large as, and is sometimes mistaken for, the much rarer Madagascar Serpent Eagle Eutriorchis astur.

MADAGASCAR BIRDING TOUR

Join Africa – Birds & Birding and Unusual Destinations
on an unforgettable 10-day birding tour to Madagascar



Rufous Vanga

PETE OXFORD



Sakalava Weaver

PETE OXFORD

NICK GARBUTT

Explore top birding localities in Madagascar's prime habitat types, each of which holds its own complement of regional endemics, some of the world's rarest and most unusual birds. The tour will be led by Ian Davidson, who has escorted groups around Africa and Madagascar for several years, and this, coupled with the endless experience of Unusual Destinations, will guarantee a most rewarding and hassle-free tour. The sites included in the itinerary are also outstanding for other wildlife: we'll be sure to see lemurs, reptiles and frogs galore, incomparably diverse flora and mind-boggling scenery. ▶