

Martin reveals birdlife riches

The wealth of British birdlife is to be celebrated in a television series through the lens of a Norfolk cameraman.

The skills of Martin Smith, who lives near Fakenham, have been used to capture some striking wildlife sights.

Mr Smith has travelled around Britain shooting scenes for the eight-part Channel 4 series Wings, which begins on Tuesday at 8pm.

He was selected for the programmes after working on Anglia TV's Countrywide series.

The keen wildlife film maker found the work a labour of

love and capturing exactly the right shot time-consuming.

He spent three days in Devon getting about 30 seconds of film of the rare curl bunting.

Attempts to show a nightingale singing at Bradfield Woods in Suffolk proved even more gruelling.

Martin was stationed in the woods from 4am to 10pm for three days trying to get the perfect shot.

"Every time it came out to sing, there was a branch in the way," he recalled. On the last day of filming at four o'clock, it just came out and sang straight down the lens."



HOT SHOT: Cameraman Martin Smith. 10/1/97