



HIDE AND SEEK: Martin Smith a cameraman with a keen eye for the best natural history shots.

Picture: SUPPLIED

Martin travels thousand of miles for a chance to watch the birdie

HE travelled thousands of miles, spent five days in sweltering heat and lived in fear of a range of nasty creatures — and all to get 30 seconds of film of a shy bird.

But the American adventure was certainly worth it for natural history cameraman Martin Smith, of East Barsham, near Fakenham, who was working for a new Sir David Attenborough BBC series on birds.

The task for Mr Smith, 39, was to capture film of a bird the size of a

Skylark called the Dickcissel and he jumped at the chance of a great challenge.

The bird had been spotted in the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, but he said it was like looking for a needle in a haystack in the 44,000 acre park.

Success finally came for Mr Smith after five days when he headed south to the San Bernard refuge

He said: "It was absolutely fantastic when I saw it and I came away

punching the air. I was thrilled to bits to finish the job."

As well as the task of finding the small bird in such a large area, Mr Smith also had to contend with incredible humidity in his hide and the threat of rattlesnakes, moccasins and fire ants.

Mr Smith is being featured on Anglia TV's Countrywide programme on Sunday afternoon, when there will be a chance to see him working on the River Sumner.