

Camera watch on bird of prey

Solo the sparrowhawk cranes its neck out of its nest to wolf down some of the prey caught by its father — oblivious to its television star status.

The daily life of the six-day-old bird is being captured on video to give visitors to Pensthorpe Waterfowl Park, near Fakenham, an insight into the life of these birds of prey.

Martin Smith has set up a 60ft

scaffolding to film the sparrowhawk nest perched 50ft up a conifer tree at the park.

He waits patiently to get footage of the fledgling which was the only surviving chick born to a pair of sparrowhawks.

Visitors unable to spot the nest can now watch the sparrowhawks on a 9ft by 6ft screen.

Mr Smith, who specialises in wildlife photography, will be

updating the film every few days to allow visitors to monitor the chick's progress.

Scenes include the youngster being fed by its parents and Mr Smith hopes to capture it flying from the nest in about a month's time.

Bill Maikins, director of Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust, said: "We are very fortunate to have the help of professional photographer Martin Smith who can produce this sort of work to show the public intimate footage of a very interesting bird."

● Pensthorpe Waterfowl Park is open daily from 11am to 5pm. Admission is £4.45 for adults and £1.60 for children.



A sparrowhawk nesting at Pensthorpe