



Fakenham photographer Martin Smith whose buzzard Agate escaped but was spotted by Fakenham pupils Adeane Barnes and Harvey English (right).

The buzzard is back

Agate the errant buzzard is back with his owner — thanks to a couple of eagle-eyed six-year-olds.

The bird of prey, who flew the coop nearly two weeks ago, was spotted less than a mile from his home by Fakenham Infants School pupils Harvey English and Adeane Barnes.

"We thought it was an eagle. I am very pleased we found it because it is a very pretty bird," said Harvey.

Relieved owner Martin Smith, of Lichfield Road, Fakenham, yesterday thanked the boys, who sighted Agate during a lunchtime break at the bottom of their school field.

He was also grateful to the EDP readers who, after an appeal in Tuesday's edition, flooded him with calls of possible sight-

ings throughout Norfolk — including Bacton, Watton and Yarmouth.

"I honestly didn't think I would get him back this time," said the owner, whose feathered pet last flew away four years ago.

But on Wednesday when the two boys found Agate, he was reluctant to come home.

"He was very content, I think he had been feeding on voles and rats. It took me an hour to coax him down with his usual food, dead day-old chicks," said Mr Smith, who has kept Agate in his back garden for about ten years.

The 20-inch-high bird, with a wing span of about three feet, had refused to fly back to Mr Smith on an outing to Fakenham racecourse at the beginning of the month.