

## Funding the Future

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There was good birding to be done at the Wetland and Wildlife Trust Welney reserve this morning, along with their excellent coffee - the best to be had anywhere around Ely, but far, in my opinion.

These two Whooper swans were definitely in the mood for something and only had eyes and wings to flap at each other. Whether they will stay to nest or migrate to Iceland soon is, of course, unknown. The mute swan to the right was not amused - at all:



One of our rarer geese - a white-fronted goose (referring to the white ring around their bill) was also to be seen - and this is only the second time I know I have seen it. The picture is as good as I could get. The black striping is very distinctive:



There's a lapwing - one of the thousands around this morning - on the right.

And there is nothing rare about these geese - the greylag, but they are very East Anglian, even if they were effectively reintroduced in the 1970s, with considerable success:



That beak is a thing of beauty. So is the bird as a whole. Their scientific name is *anser anser* - so good they named them twice.