

Godwits

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I was, as is often the case, at Welney bird reserve this morning. The light was better than yesterday.

The highlight of the morning was when a marsh harrier put up a flock of black-tailed godwits, which are there at present before probably moving on as migrants to Iceland to breed, although there is also a small resident population.

These birds are spectacular in flight, murmuring spectacularly, or susurating if you so wish, if you think the term murmuring is reserved for starlings, as some claim it to be.

I took these pictures when they were flying that way, the birds showing off their white bellies as they flew in one direction:



When they turn (which they do in unison), they then appear dark, based on the view of their upper bodies:



A blown-up shot of their undersides makes clear just how beautiful these birds are:



The russet heads are only seen in the breeding season. Most now have them.