

The Sense of a Goose



When you see a flock of geese heading south for the winter flying along in “V” formation, you might find it interesting to know that science has discovered why they fly that way. Scientists have found that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

(People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the trust and uplift of one another.)

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. Quickly, it gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

(If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are traveling in the same direction.)

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point.

(It pays to take turns doing hard jobs...with people or with geese flying south.)

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

(What do we say when we honk from behind?)

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gun shot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow it down to give help and protection. The support geese stay with the injured goose until it either is able to fly or has died. Afterwards they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

(If we have the sense of a goose we will stand by each other like that.)