

The Sense of Geese!

Next

time you

see geese heading

south for the winter, flying

along in the “V” formation, you might

be interested in knowing what science has

discovered about why they fly that way. It has been

learned 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 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its

own. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance

of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting

power of the bird in front. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose

flies point. The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. Finally,

when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of formation

and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the goose until it is able to

fly, or until it is dead, and then launch out on their own or with another

formation to catch up with their original group. You see, all we

have to do to attract those who are not participating is to

demonstrate to the world that we have at least

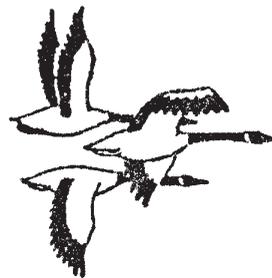
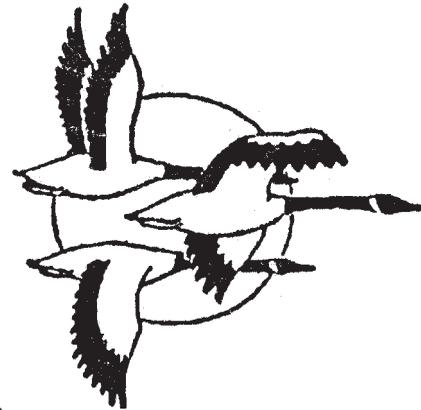
as much sense as a goose. That seems

like a small enough price to

pay to win the lost

and to help one

another.



BASIC TRUTHS ✦ People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. ✦ If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are. ✦ We will stand by each other, protect one another, and sometimes make new friends who seem to be going in our direction. ✦ It pays to take turns doing the hard jobs — with people or with flying geese. ✦ We need to be careful what we say when we honk from behind. ✦ May we have the sense of geese!

— Anonymous