



Name, Logo, and Interesting Facts

ViaGem

(Portuguese origin) — Successful Journey

Logo

“V” Formation – Birds in Flight – exemplifies some of the characteristics that ViaGem Consulting strives to apply in rendering services to its clients.

Most of us have probably seen large groups of migrating birds like geese or ducks flying in formation. These large groups of birds are particularly common in late autumn and early winter when birds migrate from their summer homes in Canada to the warmer climate of the southern United States and Mexico. Such groups of birds will typically fly in a large “V” – formation with one bird in the lead and others trailing behind in two lines.

There are two main reasons why they fly in a V-formation. First, it conserves their energy. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front, resulting in a reduction of wind resistance. Even though the V-formation benefits all of the birds, the bird in the lead position has to work the hardest. When this bird tires, it will drop out of the lead position and fall further back into one of the lines of the V. Another bird from further back will rapidly move forward to take the leading position and maintain the formation. The other birds rotate positions accordingly.

This cyclical rearrangement gives all the birds in the flock the responsibility of being the leader as well as a chance to enjoy the maximum benefits of being in the middle of the formation. This sense of teamwork comes naturally since even the youngest members of the flock rapidly realize that it takes less work to fly in a V-formation than it does to fly alone. In fact, a flock of geese can fly 72 percent farther by adopting the V-formation rather than flying solo.

Although human aircraft can also exploit the benefits of formation flight, it is difficult to do so since we still lag behind nature in the ability of our technology to “feel” the air and adapt to it for optimum performance. Close formation flight among a group of aircraft is often difficult to maintain because of the turbulence created by the lead aircraft. Perhaps one day we will be able to develop advanced technologies that make aircraft as sensitive to their surroundings as the body of a bird. We may then be able to make better use of formation flight to improve the efficiency of flying vehicles.

Another reason why birds fly in formation is that this orientation allows the birds to communicate more easily. The V-formation provides the birds with good visual contact of each other to keep the flock together and minimizes the possibility of losing birds along

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Name, Logo, and Interesting Facts, continued

the way as the formation crosses vast distances during migration. They regularly communicate by honking to each other while they fly to encourage those in front to keep up their speed, and as they look for likely landing locations along the way. Many Canadian Geese, for example, fly thousands of miles between their wintering spots in the South to their summer homes in Canada and Alaska. They reach up to 60 mph during their flights, and can reach an altitude of 8,000 feet.

Geese are very loyal birds. A male and female will mate for life. A family group will stay together even within the flock. The new mother and father will stay with their offspring to nurture and protect them, until they are ready to fly. At that time they will travel together as a unit, usually as part of a larger flock. Within the flock, often times, you will see a group of birds that stays together as a unit, breaking off together when the flock comes down to land. If a bird becomes injured during migration and can't keep up with the flock, a few family members or "flock mates" will go down with the injured bird to keep it safe while it recuperates. Only when it is ready to fly again (or succumbs to its injuries) will they take off again, looking for a new flock to join up with.

Nature teaches us incredible lessons through the actions of birds and animals. Teamwork, leadership, positive mind-set, strong sense of mission, and finely tuned instincts are all characteristics that Canadian Geese use to help them to achieve successful journeys. People and organizations can apply these same characteristics to their lives and situations to ultimately achieve their desired future and mission. It's time to set your sights and soar!