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ON THE COVER
Photo: Coke Smith

Bar-headed geese (Anser indicus) flying above
the Tibetan Plateau. Rather than migrate
high above the ground at a steady altitude,
these birds fly only as high as the undulating terrain requires. This flight path keeps them in relatively dense air and reduces energy expenditure. Measures of heart rate and wingbeat frequency confirm that the birds usually fly comfortably within their physiological capabilities. See page 250.