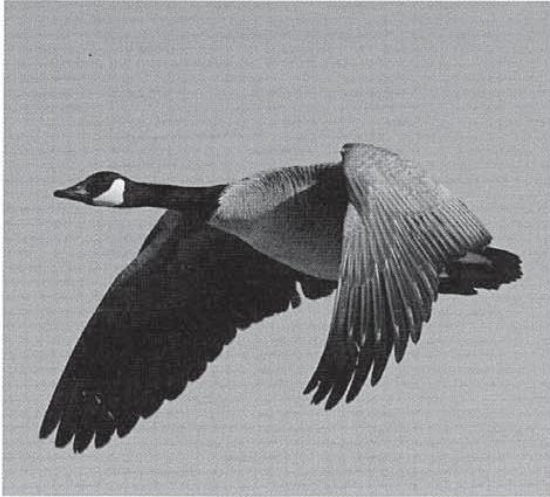


US Airways Flight 1549 – CASE STUDY

Lead in

“ This is Cactus 1549; hit birds; we lost thrust in both engines; we're turning back towards LaGuardia. ”



- 1a What links the photos?
- b Work in groups. How much do you remember of this story?
- c What do you think contributed most to the successful outcome?

US Airways Flight 1549

“ There is little doubt as to the role that the training and experience of the flight crew played in the successful emergency landing, but ultimately, it was their decision-making skill that turned a potential tragedy into a triumph. ”

Clarence Rash and Sharon Manning, *Thinking things through*, *AeroSafety World*, July 2009

- 2 Have you experienced a situation in which you had to use your training and decision-making skills under stress? Describe what happened.

- 3a **2.25** You are going to hear an extract from communications between the crew of US Airways Flight 1549 and ATC at LaGuardia, New York, which ended in a successful ditching in the Hudson in 2009. Listen and tick the phrases you hear.
 - a in both engines
 - b turn right heading 220
 - c an emergency returning
 - d he lost both engines
 - e over to our right
 - f which runway would you like?

c **Answer the questions.**

- 1 What difference is there between the controller's first and second clearance?
- 2 What do you notice about the pilot's and controller's use of the flight's call sign?
- 3 What is the pilot's first intention?
- 4 Who does the controller warn about the emergency?
- 5 What is the initial reaction of the controller at LaGuardia Tower?
- 6 Which approach does the controller first propose?
- 7 Which is the last runway at LaGuardia the controller proposes?
- 8 Which option does the pilot consider after LaGuardia?
- 9 What does the controller propose last of all?
- 10 What does the pilot decide to do?