



## National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

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<b>Location:</b>	NEW CASTLE, DE	<b>Accident Number:</b>	BF094LA058
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	04/02/1994, 1915 EST	<b>Registration:</b>	N2542L
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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On April 2, 1994, at 1915 eastern standard time, a Piper PA-38- 112, N2542L, collided with birds enroute to New Castle County Airport, Wilmington, Delaware. The certificated private pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured while the airplane sustained substantial damage. The personal flight was being operated under 14 CFR 91 and originated in Delaware. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and a flight plan was not filed.

According to the pilot, it was a dark night and he was returning from a local flight. He stated that he was descending out of 2000 feet MSL for 1100 feet MSL, and upon reaching 1800 feet MSL he heard a loud bang. The pilot stated that he lost all electrical power and was unable to contact the tower. The airplane struck a flock of birds and some of the birds were ingested into the airplane's engine air inlet as well as in the cockpit. A landing was made without power due to loss of engine and electrical power. The pilot also stated that he did not have any aileron control during the landing.

Examination of the airplane by the FAA revealed that there were bird strikes to the right side battery case, firewall, and both wings. According to the Airport Facilities Directory in the Airport Remarks, it states in part "birds on and in vicinity of airport."

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	20, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	10/12/1992
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	222 hours (Total, all aircraft), 181 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 58 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N2542L
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-38-112 PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	38-79A0756
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235-L2C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	DAWN AERONAUTICS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	112 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	DAWN AERONAUTICS	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ILG, 80 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1800 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	140°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / 4° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1850 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	BEVERLEY JOHNSON,
Additional Participating Persons:	JIM SHEPHARD; PHILADELPHIA, PA
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .