



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Hollister, CA	Accident Number:	SEA08CA123
Date & Time:	05/02/2008, 1723 PDT	Registration:	N269SD
Aircraft:	Vans Aircraft RV-7A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during takeoff initial climb, a large bird impacted the leading edge of the left wing slightly outboard of the fuel tank. The airplane immediately yawed and banked to left. The pilot attempted to straighten the airplane and land, however, despite his control inputs, the airplane continued to roll to the left. Subsequently, the left wing struck the ground and the airplane cart wheeled. Examination of the airplane revealed structural damage to the outboard sections of both wings and empennage. No mechanical anomalies were reported with the engine or airframe. A large deceased goose was found in the debris field following the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The in-flight collision with a bird.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) OBJECT - BIRD(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	44, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last Medical Exam:	11/01/2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	515 hours (Total, all aircraft), 240 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Vans Aircraft	Registration:	N269SD
Model/Series:	RV-7A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	72505
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360
Registered Owner:	Sean Patrick Farrell	Rated Power:	220
Operator:	Sean Patrick Farrell	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSNS	Observation Time:	1753
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 7°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	6 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots, 260°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Hollister, CA (KCVH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	PDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Frazier Lake Airpark (1C9)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	23	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	2 Minor		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Joshua D Cawthra **Adopted Date:** 05/28/2008

Additional Participating Persons: ; Federal Aviation Administration; San Jose, CA

Publish Date:

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

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 pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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