



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Wiscasset, ME	Accident Number:	GAA18CA105
Date & Time:	12/17/2017, 1430 EST	Registration:	N5619Z
Aircraft:	GOLDEN CIRCLE AIR T BIRD II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the tailwheel-equipped, experimental airplane, the airplane bounced to the left side of the runway during the takeoff roll.

He thought that the airplane would "straighten itself out"; however, the airplane's tail lifted, and the airplane continued to the left. The left main landing gear impacted a snowbank, and the airplane exited the left side of the runway. The airplane came to rest in the safety area.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the empennage.

The METAR at the accident airport reported that about the time of the accident, the wind was variable at 4kts and the sky was clear.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during the takeoff roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Snow/ice - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Collision during takeoff/land Runway excursion
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Sport Pilot	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Waiver Time Limited Special	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/08/2017
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	03/21/2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1186.6 hours (Total, all aircraft), 120 hours (Total, this make and model), 1070 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GOLDEN CIRCLE AIR	Registration:	N5619Z
Model/Series:	T BIRD II NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1996	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	001
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	582DCDI
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	60 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KIWI, 68 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1853 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	8°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.21 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-5° C / -16° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Wiscasset, ME (IWI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Wiscasset, ME (IWI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WISCASSET (IWI)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	70 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3397 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	43.961389, -69.712500 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	07/05/2018
Additional Participating Persons:	Dave Roakes; FAA; Portland, ME		
Publish Date:	07/05/2018		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=96617		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).