



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Ocean City, MD	Accident Number:	ERA20CA141
Date & Time:	03/12/2020, 1120 EDT	Registration:	N52232
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The helicopter pilot was conducting his first solo cross-country flight in an airplane. He reported that some birds moved over the runway as he was about to land the airplane. He applied full power and retracted the flaps to initiate a go-around; however, the airplane touched down and departed the left side of the runway onto grass. The airplane's nose and both wings impacted terrain, and the airplane nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and both wings. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 an attempted go-around to avoid birds, which resulted in a runway excursion and subsequent nose-over.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Soft surface - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Miscellaneous/other Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Attempted remediation/recovery Runway excursion Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	37, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/13/2020
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) , 350 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N52232
Model/Series:	172 S	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2008	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	172S10870
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/28/2020, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7762.5 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C126 installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-L2A
Registered Owner:	Mustang Sally Aviation Llc	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Infinity Flight School	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot School (141)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OXB, 12 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1053 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	182°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.13 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Wildwood, NJ (WWD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Ocean City, MD (OXB)	Type of Clearance:	VFR Flight Following
Departure Time:	1040 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Ocean City Muni (OXB)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	11 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4074 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Straight-in

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:	38.310556, -75.123889 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	06/29/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Steve O'Rourke; FAA / FSDO; Baltimore, MD		
Publish Date:	06/29/2020		
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=101137		

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