



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Eleazar Nepomuceno
Air Safety Investigator
General Aviation Accident Division

Date: 2/6/2020
Person Contacted: Todd Unruh
NTSB Accident Number: GAA20CA054

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by pilot in a telephone conversation on this date:

- The pilot departed Dallas and were en route to New Braunfels Aiport (BAZ). About 4,000 feet above the ground, he obtained the local weather. After being cleared by BAZ air traffic controller to enter the right pattern for runway 33, about 12 nautical miles away, the airplane descended through 3,200 ft mean sea level (msl), heading west, about 200 knots +/- 20 knots. While pushing the nose down and retarding the power levels to idle and silencing the gear warning horn a large, as he looked back up, he saw a black winged bird, in a dive, impact the upper aft corner of the pilot's windshield. Glass from the inside layer entered his eyes before he could close them and also gave him a bloody nose along with multiple facial cuts and wounds. At the impact moment, he believed that they were 7 to 9 nm away from the airport, about 2,500 to 3,000 feet msl, traveling 200 to 220 knots. Shortly after, he radioed in an emergency call to BAZ tower of the bird strike and eye injuries, that he could not see due to blurred vision. He instructed the only passenger to come to the cockpit and sit in the copilot's seat. He worked the power levers, gear, flaps and while following the yoke controls, he instructed the passenger to fly the plane. After he felt comfortable with the passenger's ability to maneuver the airplane, he instructed the passenger to an approach and land.
- The pilot sustained serious injury to both eyes.
- The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.