



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CHARLOTTE, Michigan	Accident Number:	CHI94LA124
Date & Time:	March 30, 1994, 20:30 Local	Registration:	N7581V
Aircraft:	CESSNA 177RG	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT VEERED THE AIRPLANE TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE RUNWAY DURING A LANDING ROLL, IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID TWO DEER WHICH RAN ACROSS THE RUNWAY. IN DOING SO, THE LEFT STABILIZER AND PROPELLER CONTACTED TWO RUNWAY EDGE LIGHTS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the deer which ran onto the runway. Factors related to the accident were the night conditions and the runway lights which were contacted.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - RUNWAY LIGHT
2. (C) OBJECT - ANIMAL(S)
3. REMEDIAL ACTION - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

Factual Information

On March 30, 1994, at 2030 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 177RG, N7581V, operated by Arthur R. LeBlanc, collided with two runway lights on landing at the Fitch H. Beach Airport, Charlotte, Michigan, while on a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The airplane was substantially damaged. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The flight originated from Bluffton, Ohio, on March 30, 1994, at 1930.

The pilot reported that during the landing roll two deer ran across the runway in front of the airplane. He veered the airplane to the left in an attempt to miss the deer. The left side of the horizontal stabilizer was substantially damaged when it along with the propeller contacted two runway edge lights.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 4, 1992
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 116 hours (Total, this make and model), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N7581V
Model/Series:	177RG 177RG	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	177RG0872
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 6, 1993 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	51 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2144 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B6D
Registered Owner:	ARTHUR R. LEBLANC	Rated Power:	200 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAN ,861 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	21:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-2°C / -7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	BLUFFTON , OH (5G7)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	FITCH BEACH 07G	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	890 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	20	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.560989,-84.829124(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Sullivan, Pamela

Additional Participating Persons: WILLIAM W BEST; GRAND RAPIDS , MI

Original Publish Date: November 14, 1994

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=9499>

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