



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Patterson, Louisiana	Accident Number:	GAA19CA115
Date & Time:	January 20, 2019, 13:45 Local	Registration:	N384TL
Aircraft:	Navion Navion	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abrupt maneuver	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while on a 3-mile base leg, he encountered a flock of large birds. He aborted the base leg and rapidly descended the airplane to avoid the birds, but the birds followed. The pilot continued the dive and saw power lines nearby. He made an "evasive maneuver (dive down)" to avoid the power lines, but the vertical stabilizer struck the power lines, shearing off the vertical stabilizer and rudder.

The pilot maintained airplane control, climbed the airplane, declared "mayday," and requested flight following to an airport without a crosswind for landing. He approached at a higher airspeed to reduce the airplane's left turning tendencies, and during the landing roll, the airplane veered left off the runway into an adjacent field.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the vertical stabilizer and rudder.

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 clearance from power lines while making an evasive maneuver to avoid birds.

Findings

Environmental issues

Wire - Effect on operation

Personnel issues

Monitoring environment - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR pattern base	Abrupt maneuver (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Runway excursion
Emergency descent	Part(s) separation from AC

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 23, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 23, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1327 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1000 hours (Total, this make and model), 1327 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15.5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4.4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Navion	Registration:	N384TL
Model/Series:	Navion D	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1948	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	NAV-4-1384
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 3, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2838.73 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-BA
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	285 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPTN,9 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	287°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Gonzales, LA (REG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Patterson, LA (PTN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:26 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	HARRY P WILLIAMS MEMORIAL PTN	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	8 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

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:	29.707221,-91.296386(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Hardwick; FAA; Baton Rouge, LA
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98919

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