



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Naples, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA19LA091
Date & Time:	December 22, 2018, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N564SC
Aircraft:	Czech Sport Sportcruiser	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Birdstrike	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the passenger, the pilot fueled the airplane before takeoff. While en route, about 2,500 ft above ground level, the airplane struck a large bird. The engine continued to operate for about 2 minutes, until the "low fuel" warning indicator illuminated, and then the engine lost total power. The pilot declared an emergency and performed a forced landing on a road. During the landing roll, the airplane struck a road sign and several large trees, which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage and wings. Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed that the nosewheel fairing and the underside of the engine cowling displayed evidence of a bird strike. Examination of the engine revealed that the carburetor was leaking fuel. The damage to the carburetor could not be definitively attributed to the bird strike alone. However, given that the airplane had been fueled immediately before the flight, that a low fuel warning was annunciated shortly after the bird strike, and that the bird had impacted an area in the vicinity from which fuel was leaking, it is likely that the bird strike damaged the fuel system, which resulted in fuel draining from the airplane, subsequent fuel exhaustion, and a total loss of engine power.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Collision with a bird in flight, which resulted in damage to the engine, a fuel leak, and a subsequent total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Aircraft	(general) - Damaged/degraded
Environmental issues	Animal(s)/bird(s) - Contributed to outcome
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome
Environmental issues	Sign/marker - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Birdstrike (Defining event)
Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (total)
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On December 22, 2018, around 1330 eastern standard time, a Czech Sport Sportcruiser, N564SC, was substantially damaged after it impacted trees following a bird strike near Naples, Florida. The private pilot sustained serious injuries and the pilot-rated-passenger sustained minor injuries. The private pilot succumbed to his injuries on January 23, 2019. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the flight that originated from Naples Municipal Airport (APF), Naples, Florida, around 1315. The personal flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

According to the pilot-rated-passenger, after fueling the airplane to 20 gallons, he and the pilot departed the airport. They proceeded to climb to 2,500 ft above ground level, and about 25 miles east of APF, the airplane struck a large bird. The engine continued to operate for about 2 minutes, until the "low fuel" warning indicator illuminated, and then the engine stopped producing power. The pilot declared an emergency and elected to perform a forced landing on a road. During the landing roll, the airplane struck a road sign and several large trees, which resulted in substantial damage to the airplane.

An examination of the airplane by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed that the fuselage and wings were impact damaged during the accident sequence. The nose wheel faring and the underside of the engine cowling revealed evidence of a bird strike. Examination of the carburetor revealed that the butterfly valve operated without anomaly, however, fuel was leaking from the assembly. Examination of the engine could not differentiate the damage that resulted from the bird strike versus the collision during the landing.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	71,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 5, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 10, 2017
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Czech Sport	Registration:	N564SC
Model/Series:	Sportcruiser No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2015	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	C0524
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	APF, 9 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	14 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	267°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3800 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	30°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Naples, FL (APF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	26.166944,-81.516113(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kemner, Heidi
Additional Participating Persons:	Juan Garcia; FAA/FSDO; Miramar, FL
Original Publish Date:	June 29, 2020
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98900

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