

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 05/18/2001

SEA00LA091  
File No. 874

05/25/2000

WOLF POINT, MT

Aircraft Reg No. N30RA

Time (Local): 08:45 MDT

Make/Model: Cessna / 310R  
Engine Make/Model: Continental / IO-520-MB1B  
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed  
Number of Engines: 2  
Operating Certificate(s): None  
Type of Flight Operation: Positioning  
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	0	1	0
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: WOLF POINT, MT  
Destination: SIDNEY, MT  
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip

Condition of Light: Day  
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility  
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions  
Lowest Ceiling: None  
Visibility: 10.00 SM  
Wind Dir/Speed: 120 / 011 Kts  
Temperature (°C): 21  
Precip/Obscuration:

Pilot-in-Command Age: 25

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)

Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Total All Aircraft: 696

Last 90 Days: 100

Total Make/Model: 100

Total Instrument Time: 43

Instrument Ratings

Airplane

SEA00LA091

On May 25, 2000, about 0845 mountain daylight time, a Cessna 310R, N30RA, operated by Richland Aviation, of Sidney, Montana, was destroyed subsequent to colliding with multiple geese and impacting terrain approximately 5 miles southeast of Wolf Point, Montana. The commercial pilot, the sole occupant of the aircraft, sustained serious injuries. The aircraft was being operated as a Title 14 CFR Part 91 positioning flight, when the accident occurred. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The flight originated from Clayton Municipal Airport, approximately 5 minutes prior to the accident. Impact forces and post-crash fire destroyed the aircraft.

Shortly after takeoff from runway 11, about 600 feet above ground level (AGL), the aircraft collided with multiple geese. The pilot stated that he heard 3-4 loud bangs just before the aircraft's windshield shattered. The aircraft subsequently collided with terrain and burned. The pilot was unable to recall any of the detailed events between the time of the bird strikes and the time of the accident.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
In flight collision with birds.