

Southwest Airlines Co.
Sara Gons
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Safety & Security



January 3, 2020

Dan Bower
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

RE: Southwest Airlines Flight 5246 Pilot Statements

Dan,

Per your request, please find below the statements from the Flight Crew of Southwest Airlines Flight 5246 on December 21, 2019.

Captain

Descending on a left downwind for Runway 19R at KMCI, we felt and heard an impact at approximately 9,800 feet MSL. On post flight, we found damage to the lower right fuselage.

First Officer

Date: December 21, 2019

Time: Approximately 2010 local

Where: On the Tyger6 Arrival between TYGER and TRIKE

Altitude: 9,800 feet

Airspeed: 250kts

Attitude: Level to slightly descending

When descending through 10,000 feet, I looked over to the Captain to let him know we passed through it for the Flight Attendant notification. As I looked forward, a white flash went by through the landing lights and I heard a loud bang below my feet. After the loud bang, we both agreed it was some sort of bird strike and subsequently checked engine parameters and any possible damage to the aircraft. From the cockpit, no damage was found and no parameters were out of normal operating limits. We agreed to continue the arrival into Kansas City and landed on Runway 27 uneventfully. When we got to the gate, we noticed two very large dents externally on the right side below the FO's seat. Maintenance was there to greet us and then took over the situation from there.

Thank you,

Sara Gons
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Safety & Security
Southwest Airlines, Co.

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