

Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 7/24/2023
Subject: ERA23LA305, Pilot Statement
Contact: William Baggarly, Pilot

The flight school emailed the IIC the following statement from the pilot on July 24, 2023.

"I William Baggarly on July 11th, 2023 at 1:39 pm had a bird strike during a local solo training flight in N271MG at Macon Downtown Airport. I took off at 1:15 pm and flew north for 12 miles at 3000 feet before starting to practice maneuvers between 3200 and 2500 feet. After finishing maneuvers I flew south for 3 minutes and started putting navigation to Macon Downtown Airport into the G1000, during which time I looked up to see a large black bird very close and to the right of the plane. I instinctually tried to avoid it by pushing the nose down but it was too late and almost immediately after seeing it hit the end of the right wing. I could hear and feel the collision and when I looked the end of the right wing was visibly deformed. I immediately started heading for Macon Downtown Airport which was 12 miles to the south of the site of collision. I noted on the way that the flight controls felt the same as normal. I did not declare an emergency and landed normally on runway 280 and Taxied to the FBO where I alerted the mechanics."