

Bird strike report 11/29/23 N6212F

On 11/29/23 at around 12:25pm, after taking off rwy 20 at KWVI (Watsonville Municipal Airport) in N6212F (C172N) on a dual training flight, during a straight climb out at around 800ft suddenly I noticed a bird about 10 o'clock in my view and I could not quickly determine its flight path. As I noticed the bird I called it out loudly, and within 1s I heard a loud thump-like noise. The bird hit the left horizontal stabilizer. I did not see immediately where the bird impacted as I was focused on flying/looking ahead making sure our flight is not disrupted. I did not feel our flight path or flight controls changed.

Within a couple of seconds Jon Wizard, my instructor took the controls, then I had time to look out to the left, checked damage to the wheel and strut first, where there was no damage, but then I saw the bird wrapped around the left horizontal stabilizer. From then on Jon piloted the plane, and landed the plane on rwy 20.

Laszlo Juracz
11/29/23

Photos of the bird and damage to left horizontal stabilizer:



