

No: 8/85

Ref: EW/G85/07/10

Aircraft type and registration: Reims Cessna F152 G-BKGW (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and time (GMT): 3 July 1985 at 1400 hrs

Location: Sywell Aerodrome

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Nose landing gear collapsed, propeller bent

Commander's Licence: Student

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 68.55 hours, all on type

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The aircraft was being flown by a student pilot. He was returning to Sywell on completion of a qualifying cross country flight. The pilot executed two go arounds due to the presence of a flock of birds on the landing runway 03. Following advice from air traffic control that the birds would move out of the way of his landing run the pilot began a third and final approach. The pilot states that immediately prior to touch down the aircraft was struck by birds on the windscreen, wing and strut. He also states that he was distracted as the flock of birds rose around him causing him to land his aircraft heavily. It bounced some 10 to 15 feet and landed heavily again on the nosewheel which collapsed, permitting the propeller to strike the ground. The birds were identified as rooks and some remains were found near to where the aircraft came to rest. Bird scaring devices, in the form of explosive charges connected to slow burning rope fuses, were in operation at the airfield.