

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199601148**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Chieftain**

07 April 1996

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number:	199601148	Occurrence Type:	Accident
Location:	30km S Weipa, Aerodrome		
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Sunday 07 April 1996		
Time:	1330 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Piper Aircraft Corp		
Aircraft Model:	PA-31-350		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-PRJ	Serial Number:	31-7305064
Type of Operation:	Charter	Passenger	
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial		
Departure Point:	Aurukun QLD		
Departure Time:	1316 EST		
Destination:	Weipa QLD		

Approved for Release: Tuesday, May 7, 1996

The pilot reported that as he was preparing engine settings for descent he noticed a very large bird ahead of the aircraft. Insufficient time remained to initiate avoidance and the bird struck the left wing leading edge. The flight continued without further incident and the aircraft made an uneventful landing at the planned destination. Post flight examination found the wing leading edge was deformed outboard of the left engine and a wing rib was damaged.