



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of Natural History*

MEMO

TO: Shawn Etcher, Air Safety Investigator, NTSB, 45065 Riverside Parkway,  
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FROM: Carla J. Dove, Ph.D., Smithsonian Institution, Division of Birds,  
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DATE: 15 July 2013

RE: Examination of material for bird remains

The Smithsonian Institution's Feather Identification Lab (National Museum of Natural History) examined material received from you (UPS tracking number 1Z3978T13978T13976933413) to determine if bird remains were present. The material originally came from Atlanta, GA and was received by us on 18 June 2013.

Samples from three small alcohol wipes were examined microscopically for feather evidence, and submitted for DNA testing. No feather remains were found in the microscopic exam.

DNA was found in two samples. One sample contained a weak (94%) match to the Order of birds that includes perching birds (Passeriformes). Our standard similarity index for DNA identifications of birds is 98% or better so this result is not considered reliable. Another sample contained DNA that matched (99.6%) to Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*). The average weight of the Least Flycatcher is 10.3g (0.36 oz) and could be incidental to the event that you are investigating.

If you have any questions, or would like the samples returned to you, please let us know.