



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

MEMO

TO: Shawn Etcher, Air Safety Investigator, NTSB, 45065 Riverside Parkway,
Ashburn, VA 20147 [REDACTED]

FROM: Carla J. Dove, Ph.D., Smithsonian Institution, Division of Birds,
National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC 20560

DATE: 24 October 2013

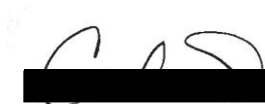
RE: Identification of Birdstrike remains

The feather sample received by us on 23 October 2013 from the 20 October 2013 helicopter event near Madison Mississippi (Metro Aviation AS 350 B2; N911ES) has been identified as Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). Therefore, the identification of the material collected from the aircraft matches the submitted photograph of the carcass found on the ground.

The average weight of the Black Vulture is 4.4 pounds; the weight range for this species is 3.6 – 4.8 pounds.

This information (case 11538) will be submitted to the FAA Wildlife Strike Database. If you have any questions, or would like the feather sample returned to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,


[REDACTED]

Carla Dove, Ph.D.
Feather Identification Lab
NHB E-600; MRC 116
Washington, DC 20560
[REDACTED]