



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Douglas P. Brazy
NTSB – Air Safety Investigator
45065 Bles Park Dr.
Ashburn, VA 20147
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21 January 2022

NTSB# ERA22LA090; FAA#2022-01-21-181550
Feather Lab # 220121.11

Dear Mr. Brazy,

The Smithsonian Institution's Feather Identification Lab received feather samples for examination on 21 January 2022 that were associated with a crash investigation (NTSB# ERA22LA090) that occurred in Auburndale, Florida. The feather samples were collected from the right-wing fuel cap (inside tank) of the Lake LA0250 amphibious airplane (N1402C) that crashed on 17 December 2021. Prior to these feather samples being received, photographs of a large black bird retrieved from the wreckage field were submitted for examination on 17 December 2021.

The photographs, and the physical feather samples attached to the aircraft, have been identified as Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*).

If you have any questions, please call.

Good luck with this investigation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Carla J. Dove, Ph.D.
Feather Identification Lab
Smithsonian Institution
NHB E-600, MRC 116
[REDACTED]