

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 54/16
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/16/29
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0156/10/16
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llangenny, nr Crickhowell
Brecknockshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 17 October 2016
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 24 January 2017

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO



Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
98632	buzzard		9/12/16	28/B0156/10/16 : 1
98632	buzzard	tissues	9/12/16	28/B0156/10/16 : 1

Summary of field data

A buzzard was found alive on a footpath, but it did not fly away. The bird was hunched over and twitching and the feathers were damp from the rain, but the eyes were open and bright. The buzzard was collected and the finder was advised to keep it warm and provide some food, at 2% of the body weight of the bird. The buzzard weighed 400g and egg was mixed with water to rehydrate it. The buzzard was placed in a cardboard box with access to water overnight, but by the following morning it had died. There were no obvious signs of trauma to the carcass and it appeared to be a juvenile. These are grass fields near a footpath that runs alongside a river and within 1km of a village. Arrangements were made to collect the carcass and to deliver it on to the APHA at Carmarthen for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A female buzzard, weight 544g, emaciated and mild autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The keel bone was prominent. There was a light green staining on the peritoneum. The dorso-cranial part of the tongue had a rough surface and was light brown in colour. There was light yellow fatty material in the oesophagus. The proventriculus was empty. The gizzard content was long fibrous material resembling grass and brown-green liquid with small black shells. The gall bladder was full. The large intestine and the caeca were slightly dilated and contained soft dark faeces. The gross pathology of the remaining body systems was unremarkable, but the endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : chloralose

98632	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

98632	gizzard contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.009	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98632	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	3	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98632	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.001	mg/kg
98632	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.018	mg/kg
98632	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.005	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected from the symptoms displayed by this buzzard that it had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard. However, given the combined amounts found this is considered to be consistent with background exposure only, rather than the cause of death of the bird. Therefore, given these results and the findings on post-mortem it appears that this was a young, juvenile female that was emaciated and starvation probably accounts for the symptoms seen and the death of this buzzard. The tongue lesions are most likely due to a *Capillaria* spp, which is a parasitic nematode that affects the upper digestive tract of domestic poultry and wild birds.