

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

7/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 7/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/30
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0003-01-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Bangor
Caernarfonshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 19 December 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 4 March 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 sparrowhawk

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100619	sparrowhawk	19/1/22	APHA: 28-B0003-01-22
100619	sparrowhawk tissues	19/1/22	APHA: 28-B0003-01-22

Summary of field data

A dead sparrowhawk was found in a nature reserve. The sparrowhawk was found on the steps to a hide and it looked as though it had been deliberately placed there for someone to find. The carcase was collected and stored in a freezer. Around the end of November there had also been a dead buzzard found, but this was found to be positive for avian influenza (28 B0132 11 21-01). The find was reported to Welsh Government and arrangements were made to deliver the carcase to the APHA for an examination. This is a nature reserve.

Summary of post mortem report

A sparrowhawk was submitted for examination in a cardboard box labelled 'Reference No W/21/30'. The bird was double bagged inside two white carrier bags (not sealed). Swabs for AI were completed and the results were negative. This was a female sparrowhawk, weight 174g and in emaciated body condition with moderate autolysis. There was a loss of feathers over the head and dorsal neck with remaining feathers coming away from the skin. The eyes were sunken. There was a very prominent keel and pectoral muscles small. No contents were in the stomach and there were scant intestinal contents of a small amount of green paste. All other organ systems examined were unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100619	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.026	mg/kg
100619	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00037	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this sparrowhawk had been poisoned. However, as it had not eaten recently, testing for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only was completed on the samples submitted. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this sparrowhawk. However, these residues are consistent with background exposure levels only and are unlikely to be the cause of death of the sparrowhawk. Therefore, the cause of death of this sparrowhawk remains uncertain, although the carcase was emaciated.

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