

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

160/21



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 160/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/28
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0078-10-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Tresaith
Cardiganshire
GRID REFERENCE SN2751
INCIDENT DATE 15 October 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 20 December 2021

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 peregrine

COPIED TO

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100572	peregrine	2/11/21	28/B0078/10/21
100572	peregrine tissues	2/11/21	28/B0078/10/21

Summary of field data

A dead peregrine was found. The reporter was doing their usual walk along a Welsh Coastal Path, early one morning and found a dead peregrine falcon. The peregrine was found on it's back on the edge of the path which is bordered on either side with bracken and brambles and there is no fencing nearby. The location was about ten metres from the beach and the reporter thinks that it was not long dead as it was soft to the touch, although it was cold and it's eyes had dried up. There were no feathers lying around the carcass and it was retained, photographed, weighed (428g) and then double bagged and stored in a chest freezer. The case was reported to Welsh government and the photographs were sent to them. It was noted by the finder and from the photographs that there were two distinct holes in the wing and it is possible that these are exit wounds from a firearm. Arrangements were made to deliver the carcass to the APHA for an examination. This is a coastal path location.

Summary of post mortem report

The peregrine falcon submitted for an examination was in evidence bag N04182553, which was sealed. The falcon was wrapped in a green carrier bag within the evidence bag. There was gritty/sandy material around the head and on the body, wings and tail. There was a very prominent keel. The peregrine falcon was of unknown sex, the weight was not recorded, it was in an emaciated body condition and had moderate autolysis. There was a small hole in the dorsal right wing tracking towards the spine. There was no visible associated bleeding or inflammation. There was very little muscle on the carcass. The peritoneum was discoloured dark green. There were no contents in the proventriculus and gizzard. There was scant intestinal contents, which were dark green. The brain had a liquid consistency. There were no abnormalities of the remaining body systems seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100572	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.005	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100572	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.015	mg/kg
100572	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.074	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this peregrine had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples and no significant residues from the compound groups tested for were found. However, there were small residues of brodifacoum and bromadiolone detected and confirmed in the liver of this peregrine. Although given the amounts found, they are consistent with background exposure levels only. There was no visible haemorrhage or inflammation associated with the wound of the right wing and so this may have occurred after death. Therefore, it is possible that starvation accounts for the death of this peregrine, given these results, as it was emaciated and it's stomachs were empty.

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