

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

32/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 32/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/19
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0075-05-15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llanfair Talhairarn
Clwyd
GRID REFERENCE SH8869
INCIDENT DATE 16 April 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 13 August 2015

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 pigeon carcase (bait?)

COPIED TO

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Samples received			Date received	Sample Identifier
98034	buzzard	tissues	19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0075-05-15
98034	buzzard		19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0075-05-15
98035	pigeon carcase (bait?)		19/5/15	APHA: 28-B0075-05-15, Exhibit DJA2

Summary of field data

A dead wood pigeon and a buzzard were found in a remote layby near a village near Abergele. The wood pigeon was in a poor state but the buzzard appeared to be fresh with the only sign of trauma being a small hole under one of the legs, which may have been caused post mortem by insects. The birds were collected by the Welsh Government via the police before being submitted to APHA for post mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A wood pigeon weight 370g with an unknown body condition and an adult buzzard weight 630g with good body condition were submitted for post mortem. The wood pigeon was severely autolysed and scavenged. There was a large lesion in the muscle and bone on the right side and no internal organs were present. The lymphoreticular, endocrine and reproductive systems were not examined. Additionally the cardiovascular system urinary system and respiratory system were not examined as no internal organs were present and the brain was autolysed. The buzzard had some feather loss and maggots were present under the wings. The skin on the neck was red with yellow patches. The gizzard contained small mammal remains and the lungs were autolysed, there was also some blood present in thoracic cavity. The musculo-skeletal system, cardiovascular system, lymphoreticular system and urinary system were all unremarkable. The brain was autolysed and the endocrine and reproductive systems were not examined.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98034	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose

98034	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98034	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	7.0	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98034	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0027	mg/kg
98034	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.024	mg/kg
98034	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0013	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum, bromadiolone and brodifacoum in the liver of this buzzard. These results are consistent with exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides and their presence is unlikely to be the cause of death of this bird. Therefore, at present the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.