

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

161/21



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 161/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/23
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0019-09-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Newgale
Pembrokeshire
GRID REFERENCE SM8519
INCIDENT DATE 21 August 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 16 December 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 kestrel
1 peregrine

COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100573	peregrine	16/9/21	28/B0019/09/21
100573	peregrine tissues	16/9/21	28/B0019/09/21

Summary of field data

A dead kestrel and peregrine were found. [REDACTED] who is a volunteer working on a peregrine survey for the BTO, was undertaking the ten year count. They found the dead kestrel and peregrine and thought that the peregrine was a juvenile, as it was brown rather than slate blue, there was no barring on the wing tips and there were pale feathers on the back of the head. There were no obvious signs of trauma or predation so they thought it was possibly a poisoning incident and so reported it to Welsh Government. The peregrine appeared to be fresh and intact and smelled only a little, so it was stored frozen at the finders property until arrangements were made to transfer it to the APHA. The kestrel was considered by the finder to be too far gone, as there was nothing much left apart from bones and some feathers and it was almost dried and mummified. The two birds were about 100 metres apart at the most with the kestrel being almost on the foreshore in an area of jumbled rocks where there is an otter holt. The area was searched, but nothing else unusual was found.

Summary of post mortem report

A peregrine falcon, sex unknown and weight 414g, in emaciated body condition and moderate autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The pectorals were wasted. The proventriculus and gizzard contained a small amount of fibrous dark content. There were some small dark possible parasites, grossly resembling small larvae in the trachea and mouth, these were not parasitic and were blowfly egg larvae. There were no abnormalities of the remaining body system seen.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100573 stomach contents no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected detection limit 0.003 mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100573 stomach contents no organophosphate detected detection limit 0.5 mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100573	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0018	mg/kg
100573	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00072	mg/kg
100573	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0023	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that peregrine had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the samples submitted from the peregrine. These tests have detected and confirmed small residues of brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this peregrine. However, the amounts found are very small and consistent with background exposure levels only. The cause of death of the kestrel remains uncertain, as the carcase was not suitable for an examination. The peregrine was emaciated and given these results the cause of death of it remains uncertain.

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