

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

69/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 69/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/38
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0181/10/15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Swansea
Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SS6492
INCIDENT DATE 20 October 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 18 December 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 sparrowhawk

COPIED TO



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Samples received

			Date received	Sample identifier
98290	sparrowhawk		29/10/15	28-B181-10-15, spec 1
98290	sparrowhawk	tissues	29/10/15	28-B181-10-15, spec 1

Summary of field data

A sparrowhawk was seen feeding on a pigeon at the roadside. There was concern that the bird might attack school children leaving the school and so attempts were made to remove the bird from its prey. However, the bird continued to try and feed from the prey and then started to act oddly and died. The sparrowhawk carcass was retained, but on returning later to the area the pigeon carcass had disappeared.

Summary of post mortem report

A male sparrowhawk weight 230g with an emaciated body condition and a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. The keel bone was prominent and sharp, and the bird had a poorly developed musculature. The alimentary system was basically empty with only a small amount of dark contents present in the proventriculus. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

98290	liver	DDE-pp	0.39	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98290	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98290	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.019	mg/kg
98290	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0012	mg/kg
98290	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0059	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this sparrowhawk had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of difenacoum, bromadiolone and brodifacoum in the liver of this sparrowhawk. There was also a small residue of DDE noted in the liver, but this was a small background level and so was not confirmed. Given these results and the findings on post-mortem, it seems likely that these anticoagulant rodenticide residues are consistent with exposure only. This bird was in an emaciated condition and so starvation may have played a part in the death of the bird.