

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 47/18

PART OF STUDY FSGD-209

REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/10

OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0043/05/18

SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION [REDACTED] Capel Bangor
Cardiganshire

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 1 April 2018

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 13 July 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

4 buzzard

COPIED TO

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99059	buzzard		18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 1
99059	buzzard	tissues	18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 1
99060	buzzard		18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 2
99060	buzzard	tissues	18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 2
99061	buzzard		18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 3
99061	buzzard	tissues	18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 3
99062	buzzard		18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 4
99062	buzzard	tissues	18/5/18	28-B0043-05-18 : 4

Summary of field data

Three dead buzzards were found in a garden and this was initially reported to the Police, who contacted the Welsh Government. It was reported that initially, two dead buzzards had been found under a tree and then on the 10th April another dead buzzard was found, about 65m away and under another tree in the same garden. A field visit was arranged for the following day and during this visit another dead buzzard was found, under a tree close to the boundary fence and about 100m from where the other birds had been found. All the carcasses were collected and taken to the APHA. The field is grazed by two ponies and there are ewes and lambs in the adjoining fields. There were no other dead birds or remains of sheep/lambs noted in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

Four buzzards were submitted for post-mortem. Buzzard one and two were female and three was male and the fourth was unknown. They were all in emaciated body condition and unknown age and their weight ranged from 0.52kg to 0.64kg; severe autolysis was noted in birds one, two and four. Maggots were present in buzzard two and four and they had very wet feathers. Buzzard four had some soil on its feathers. Buzzards, one, two and four had no gastrointestinal content apart from sparse, brown liquid. Buzzard three had brown long earthworm-like insects within the gizzard. The respiratory, cardiovascular, lymphoreticular, urinary, reproductive and nervous system were unremarkable. The endocrine systems were not examined.

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99059	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg
99061	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99059	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0073	mg/kg
99059	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.00032	mg/kg
99059	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00094	mg/kg
99060	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0079	mg/kg
99060	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.015	mg/kg
99060	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.000097	mg/kg
99061	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0018	mg/kg
99061	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0079	mg/kg
99062	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0046	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of anticoagulant rodenticides in the liver tissue from all the birds, but the amounts found are consistent with background exposure only. The confirmed residues in these birds include: buzzard one, difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone; buzzard two, brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone; buzzard three, bromadiolone and difenacoum and buzzard four was brodifacoum only. Given these results and findings on post-mortem it is likely that these emaciated buzzards died from malnutrition.