

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 67/18
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/27
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0052-09-18
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION Dowlais Top
Glamorgan

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 11 September 2018

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 4 December 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 buzzard

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99183	buzzard		26/9/18	28/B0052/09/18 : ONE : ND00064386
99183	buzzard	tissues	26/9/18	28/B0052/09/18 : ONE : ND00064386

Summary of field data

A member of the public found a buzzard on the ground alive, but looking unwell. The bird was unresponsive when approached, with its head down low. The member of the public took the bird into his care, but it died the following day. The bird was reported to not be able to feed. The bird was then stored frozen before being handed over to the reporter and transferred to the Wildlife Adviser. The bird had short tail feathers suggested that they may have been cut. The reporter states that there were suspicious people around the area and that a few years ago a red kite's nest had been raided with two chicks being taken. The bird was found below an a-road flyover bypass quite close to a minor road.

Summary of post mortem report

A bird of prey, thought to be a buzzard, that weighed 448 grams with a poor body condition and a moderate degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird was thin with a prominent sternum and thin musculature. There was an area of feather loss and damaged skin approximately 2cm x 3 cm, above eye level, on the midline. Examination of the alimentary system found that the crop, proventriculus and gizzard contained scant, dark red-brown, sticky material. The small intestinal, large intestinal and caecal content were dark brown and of sticky consistency. Examination of the nervous system showed the brain had been liquefied. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen; the endocrine system was not examined. It was concluded that the bird was in thin body condition and had very little stomach contents.

Analysis : chloralose

99183	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
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Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99183	gizzard contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.2	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99183	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	6.0	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99183	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0014	mg/kg
99183	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.016	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a small residue of bromadiolone and difenacoum in the liver of this buzzard. However, given the amounts found these residues are consistent with exposure only and are not considered to be the cause of death of this buzzard. Therefore, given these results and the findings on post-mortem a lack of adequate food consumption may have been a factor in the death of this buzzard and so the cause of death has been attributed to starvation.