

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 60/19
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER W/19/15
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0036/07/19
SENDER VLA Carmarthen

LOCATION [REDACTED]
Denbighshire

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 27 June 2019

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 11 October 2019

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]
[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 |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 99611 | buzzard | 19/7/19 | 28-B0036-07-19 |
| 99611 | buzzard tissues | 19/7/19 | 28-B0036-07-19 |

Summary of field data

The North Wales police received a report of a dead buzzard [REDACTED]. Earlier that day there was also a report of a live buzzard in a Larsen trap, but when the location was visited there was no bird found. The location of the dead buzzard was considered a distance away from the trap and it was not in a location where it would be easy to discard it. The bird was collected by the Police and then stored in a fridge until it could be collected by WG and delivered to the APHA via a courier.

Summary of post mortem report

A male buzzard that weighed 0.857 kgs in a severe, advanced stage of decomposition was submitted dead (but had been frozen) for post-mortem. The bird was inside a black plastic bag, within a supermarket green plastic bag, within the evidence bag. The bird was in an advanced stage of decomposition and covered with large numbers of dead maggots (approximately 0.8-1cm long) on the left and right trunk, under the wings. The skin and feathers were not present on sides of trunk under the wings, covered with maggots. There was a 1cm diameter hole on the skin on the left trunk, and three holes (one 0.5cm diameter and two approximately 1cm diameter) on the right lateral caudal to the wings, filled with maggots. The muscles were moderately dried throughout the carcass. Muscles on the left thoracic wall and peritoneal wall were missing due to decomposition. Small volume of liver available, dark brown and covered in maggots. Small amount of pasty black material in oropharynx. Proventriculus and gizzard were filled with a dark grey to black material of fluffy appearance and few thin bones and some maggots. There was a 0.5 to 1cm hole perforating the right wall of the gizzard, from serosa to mucosa. Caeca had a grey-green pasty content. The entire right side of thorax and the left thorax partially filled with large maggots. The heart was not present, space covered in maggots. All remaining body systems were unremarkable.

Analysis : chloralose

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 99611 | kidney | no chloralose detected | detection limit | 0.02 | mg/kg |
|-------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

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|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 99611 | gizzard contents | no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected | detection limit | 0.01 | mg/kg |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

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|-------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 99611 | gizzard contents | no organophosphate detected | detection limit | 4.0 | mg/kg |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| 99611 | liver | difenacoum | confirmed | 0.027 | mg/kg |
| 99611 | liver | brodifacoum | confirmed | 0.0066 | mg/kg |

Conclusion

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 residues of difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this buzzard. This buzzard was in an advanced stage of decomposition and it was not possible to determine if holes in the skin were caused by shooting or other causes, or simply caused by maggots. However, the test results are consistent with exposure levels of anticoagulant rodenticides and they are not considered to be the cause of death of the buzzard. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain.