

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

86/08

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

RESTRICTED



CENTRAL SCIENCE
LABORATORY

INCIDENT NUMBER 86/08
PART OF STUDY PGD-310
REGIONAL NUMBER W/08/23
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0053/07/08
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Dyserth
Flintshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 4 July 2008
**SUSPECTED CAUSE
OF INCIDENT** bendiocarb
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 9 October 2008

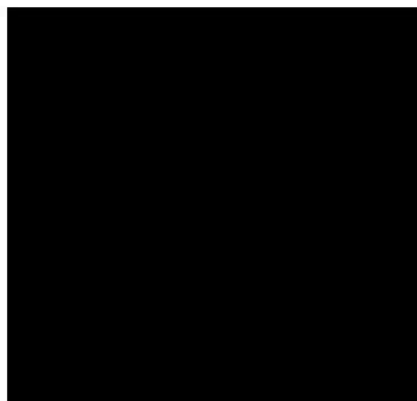
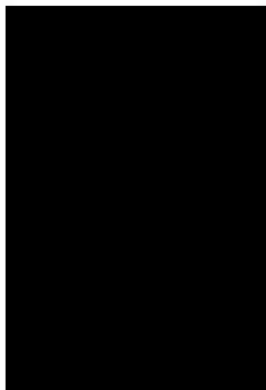
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 pheasant carcase (bait?)

COPIED TO



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
74796	buzzard	16/7/08	29/B0053/07/08 : 1
74797	pheasant carcase (bait?)	16/7/08	29/B0053/07/08 : 1

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard was found near a gateway and it was laying on top of a small bird. The day before these were found, there were two small birds in a gateway and these were believed to be quail that had been injured in a traffic accident. When the buzzard was found, the remaining small bird was inspected and it was noted to be a pheasant poult that had been cut open. The carcasses were collected and WAG contacted. During the field visit, the second suspected bait was not found. The gateway is near a telegraph pole, where a buzzard often perches. The gateway leads to a cereal field and there were no obvious pheasant release pens nearby. This location was considered unusual to leave a poison bait, as it was obvious and easily observed by passers by on the road. The North Wales police are collaborating with the WAG in the investigation of this incident and there has also been press interest in the case. A pheasant shoot is believed to operate in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult, male buzzard in good body condition and weight 775g was submitted for post-mortem. There were no gross lesions or abnormalities. The liver was congested. The crop and gizzard were full of carrion, which was mostly identifiable as muscle and fat. The lungs were congested with grey discoloration of the left lung, consistent with autolysis. Other systems were unremarkable and the cause of death was not apparent, except death appears to have occurred following ingestion of food. The caudal half of a pheasant carcass was also received and this had numerous dead flies present.

Analysis : carbamate (GC) analysis suite

74796	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	280	mg/kg
74797		bendiocarb	confirmed	1200	µg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

74796	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.03	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of carbamate pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb in the gizzard contents from the buzzard and in the pheasant bait sample. The amount of bendiocarb found in the buzzard is significant and is likely to be the cause of its death. It appears that a pheasant carcass has been intentionally laced with bendiocarb, which is an abuse of the pesticide and this action has resulted in the poisoning of a buzzard. The bendiocarb product used is uncertain, but it may be a professional pest control formulation such as Ficam. An additional test for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides will be completed on the buzzard and a revised report issued.

The additional test for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides has been completed and a small residue of brodifacoum was confirmed in the liver from this bird. This confirms that the buzzard has been exposed to brodifacoum, but it is unlikely to have contributed to the death of the bird.

This replaces the earlier restricted report issued on the 31 July 2008.