

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT



8/13

The Food & Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 8/13
PART OF STUDY FSGD-190
REGIONAL NUMBER W/13/02
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B0049-02-13
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION [REDACTED]
Flintshire

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 4 February 2013

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT shot

DATE OF REPORT 20 August 2013

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
2 buzzard

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
96588	buzzard		15/2/13	29/B0049/02/13 : bird 1 : RT1
96588	buzzard	tissues	15/2/13	29/B0049/02/13 : bird 1 : RT1
96589	buzzard		15/2/13	29/B0049/02/13 : bird 2 : RT1
96589	buzzard	tissues	15/2/13	29/B0049/02/13 : bird 2 : RT1

Summary of field data

Two dead buzzards were found close to each other. Both birds appeared to be in good condition. One bird had some blood on its breast but there were no marks on the other bird. This incident occurred on a nature reserve.

Summary of post mortem report

Two buzzards were submitted for post mortem. One bird was in fair condition; other bird was in good condition. Both birds had undergone severe autolysis. One bird had a tear in the skin over the right thorax with blood on the feathers. The other bird had a penetrating wound on the left thorax. In the musculoskeletal system, one bird had a hole in the right pectoral muscle, possibly penetrating into the thorax and in the other bird there was a hole in the pectoral muscle on the left side. In the abdominal cavity the right liver lobe was macerated in one bird, the left lobe was macerated in the other bird. In the alimentary system there was unidentifiable food material in the gizzards of both birds. In the respiratory system there was blood in the air sacs and lungs, but examination was limited by autolysis. In the cardiovascular system there was blood in the pericardial sacs of both birds. In the nervous system there was serosanguinous fluid in the cranial cavity of both birds. Examination of the lymphoreticular, endocrine, urinary, reproductive and nervous systems was limited by autolysis. Death is likely to have been caused by shooting, though no projectiles were recovered.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

96588	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.17	mg/kg
96588	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0029	mg/kg
96588	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0033	mg/kg
96589	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned. However, a post-mortem revealed that shooting was the more likely cause of death. Analyses for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides has been completed on tissues submitted from these buzzards. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum and small amounts of bromadiolone and brodifacoum in the liver of one buzzard and a small amount of bromadiolone only in the liver of the other buzzard. Although these birds appear to have been shot, the amount of difenacoum present in one buzzard (96588) was at a level that may be regarded as contributing to the death of the bird.