

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

92/11



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 92/11
PART OF STUDY FSGD-130
REGIONAL NUMBER W/11/15
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0085/08/11
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Gowerton
West Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE SS5795
INCIDENT DATE 1 August 2011
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 25 October 2011

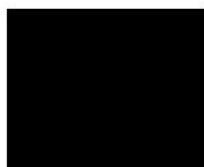
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO



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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
92333	red kite	31/8/11	VLA ref.: 29/B0085/08/11, spec no. 1, metal leg ring BTOGC94212
92333	red kite	tissues	31/8/11 VLA ref.: 29/B0085/08/11, spec no. 1, metal leg ring BTOGC94212

Summary of field data

The Gower Bird Hospital received a report that a red kite was moribund and caught in a tree. The bird was found on the ground with no signs of trauma. The bird was one of the first red kites to be tagged on the Gower on 14 June 2011. When tagged, it weighed 940 g. On Saturday 30 July, it had a good body condition and weighed 850 g. The loss of weight would be expected as it was no longer being fed by the parent birds. The bird was found in woodland near to the nesting site and adjacent to a golf course.

Summary of post mortem report

An immature, male red kite of 846g and fair to good condition was submitted for post-mortem. A metal leg ring BTOGC94212 and left wing tag black AO and right wing tag red AO were present. There was mild to moderate autolysis and early stage maggots were observed in the oral cavity. There was subcutaneous bruising over the left wing and extensive muscle bruising on the left wing. The peritoneal cavity was filled with blood and there was evidence of a rupture in the liver capsule with an overlying blood clot. The gizzard contained scant brown liquid contents. The small intestinal contents consisted of a brown liquid only. There was free blood within the thorax. The brain tissue was friable, but with no visible lesions. There were no other significant findings following examination of the other body systems. The cause of death in this case was due to internal blood loss. It appeared the source had been a rupture in the liver, with an overlying blood clot consistent with this injury having occurred during life. Extensive bruising over the left wing was also consistent with trauma as the likely cause of internal haemorrhage.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

92333	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.16	mg/kg
92333	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.002	mg/kg
92333	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.016	mg/kg

Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. However, a post-mortem examination revealed some signs consistent with a traumatic injury. Therefore, analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of difenacoum, bromadiolone and some brodifacoum in the liver of this bird. This confirms that this red kite has been exposed to several rodenticides, but mainly difenacoum and this exposure may have exacerbated the traumatic injury sustained by it.