

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

46/23



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 46/23
PART OF STUDY WIIS23
REGIONAL NUMBER W/23/08
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0056-05-23
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Coelbren
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SN8311
INCIDENT DATE 28 April 2023
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 22 August 2023

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 goshawk

COPIED TO

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
101012	goshawk	31/5/23	APHA ref: 28-B0056-05-23
101012	goshawk	31/5/23	APHA ref: 28-B0056-05-23
	tissues		

Summary of field data

A goshawk was found dead near a building site with a blood stain on its body. The incident was reported to the police who attended the scene and collected the carcass. The attending police officer stated the bird had visible wounds, which they believed were as a result of being shot. The carcass was taken for x-ray, but no shot was found. This is a rural area with arable farmland surrounded by pockets of woodland, some residential properties are also found in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

A female goshawk of unknown weight in fair body condition with severe autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. Oropharyngeal and cloacal swabs were taken for AI testing, no viral RNA was detected. On the ventral surface there was a blood-stained area approximately 40mm x 50mm over the pectoral muscle, on the right of the midline. Underlying this was a corresponding area of subcutaneous haemorrhage with a central approximately 8mm diameter tissue deficit. There were some feathers protruding from the tract. On the left side of the dorsal surface there was an area of broken skin approximately 20mm x 30mm. Underlying this there was an approximately 20mm deficit in the muscle, with haemorrhage and red tissue discoloration. There was haemorrhage within the right pectoral muscle. In the alimentary system, the oesophagus was empty and there was very scant dark green to red-brown thick liquid content in the proventriculus and gizzard. There was tan-brown thick liquid content in the intestinal tract. In the respiratory system there were blood clots in the thorax, particularly on the right side. In the cardiovascular system there was perforation of the cranial right ventricle and there were blood clots around the heart. No further abnormalities were detected on examination of the remaining body systems; the endocrine system was not examined. Gross post-mortem findings were consistent with the goshawk having died due to penetrating trauma, most likely due to a gunshot injury. A pellet was not found but the tract linking the dorsal and ventral aspects of the bird suggests that it passed through and out of the body.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

101012	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0058	mg/kg
101012	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0025	mg/kg
101012	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0016	mg/kg

Conclusion

There were traumatic injuries with this goshawk consistent with possible gunshot injury, though no pellet was found in the carcass. Therefore, laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of bromadiolone, brodifacoum and difenacoum in the liver of this goshawk, but these amounts are consistent with background exposure levels only. Therefore, given these results and the injuries noted in the postmortem the cause of death of this bird appears to be trauma.

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