

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 55/18
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/15
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0090/06/18
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Rhandirmwyn
Carmarthenshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 22 June 2018
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 30 August 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 animal carcass (bait?)
1 red kite

COPIED TO

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

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

Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
99089	buzzard	5/7/18	28-B0090-06-18
99089	buzzard	5/7/18	28-B0090-06-18
	tissues		

Summary of field data

An ill red kite was found next to a sheep carcass. The red kite was collected as there was concern that it might have been poisoned. A dead goshawk fledgling was also found about 1.4km north west of this location. The finder took the ill red kite to a private vet, but they could not deal with it and so another vet practice was contacted. This vet reported that the red kite was weak and thin and had no apparent injuries and so it was sent to a bird hospital via the RSPCA. The goshawk carcass was also collected by the finder and stored in their freezer. A few days later the Gower hospital confirmed that the red kite had a fractured wing that would have prevented the bird from feeding and this might account for the emaciated condition. The red kite was euthanased. RSPB had also been contacted and confirmed that the suspected goshawk, was in fact a young buzzard. An X-ray was arranged for the carcass and there was no evidence of shot. The RSPB visited the area with the reporter and noted that the suspected sheep carcass was in fact the remains of a foal that appeared to have been there for some time. It is unlikely that this was a poisoned bait and so it was not collected.

Summary of post mortem report

A young buzzard was submitted for post-mortem. The sex was not recorded, the weight was 809g and the body condition was poor, with moderate autolysis. The hair of the ventral body was wet. There was blood on the skin medial to the humerus of the left wing and also on the skin caudal to the left wing overlying the ribs. There were two small holes in the skin over the left ribs. A piece of bone had broken off the caudal left scapula and there was haemorrhage in the muscles of the left thoracic wall. There was clotted blood in the mouth and in the proximal oesophagus. The gizzard was full of grey fur and part of the skull of a rodent (based on appearance of teeth) was found. There was a blood clot in the caudal left lung. The spleen appeared larger than normal. No abnormalities of the remaining body systems were seen.

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99089	liver	no rodenticide detected	detection limit	0.0004	mg/kg
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Conclusion

Initially it was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples, but no residues were found. The red kite that was initially found was euthanased due to the traumatic injury and the reported sheep carcass was the remains of a foal and so unlikely to be a poisoned bait. The buzzard was in poor condition and had a traumatic injury with associated haemorrhage to the left thoracic region. Therefore, given these results a traumatic injury likely accounts for the death of this bird.