

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 93/18
PART OF STUDY FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER W/18/30
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0088/11/18
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llandinam
Montgomeryshire
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 12 November 2018
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT [REDACTED]

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO

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

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Samples received**Date received****Sample identifier**

99272	buzzard		7/12/18	APHA: 28-B088-11-18, Spec 1
99272	buzzard	tissues	7/12/18	APHA: 28-B088-11-18, Spec 1

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard with a full crop was seen on an island, close to a river. It was reported that the buzzard had not been there a few days previously and poisoning was suspected. The carcass was collected from the finder and stored in a freezer. There had been three buzzards collected from this area earlier in the year 19/18, W/18/04, which was attributed to trauma and background anticoagulant rodenticide residues. These birds also had very full crops. There has been a history of poisoning incidents in this area and the carcass was taken to a private vet, who found no evidence of shooting injuries.

Summary of post mortem report

A dead buzzard of an unknown sex that weighed 1.24 kg in a good body condition with a severe degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird was in good condition with wet plumage. The crop was very full with contents including earth worms, two sections of intestine approximately 1 cm in diameter and 10cm long with apparent cut ends. There were also two muscular structures identified as gizzards which have been opened. These gizzards were a size consistent with that expected from an adult chicken. The gizzard and proventriculus contained pasty brown contents and a small number of sections of earthworm. Examination of all other organ systems were unremarkable. In conclusion, the buzzard was in good body condition with a full crop which contained material including sections of intestine and gizzard wall of at least two other birds.

Analysis : chloralose

99272	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.01	mg/kg
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Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99272	gizzard contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.005	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99272	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	5.0	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99272	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0008	mg/kg
99272	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00055	mg/kg
99272	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.086	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed some residues of anticoagulant rodenticides in the liver of this buzzard, which included, brodifacoum, difenacoum, and bromadiolone. However, there were no signs of haemorrhage noted on post-mortem and so these residues are likely to be consistent with exposure only and are not considered to be the cause of death of this buzzard. The cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain, although it appeared to be in good condition and had some suspicious food items in the alimentary tract. Therefore, some further testing will be completed and a revised report issued if a residue is found.