

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

123/12



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 123/12
PART OF STUDY FSGD-170
REGIONAL NUMBER W/12/20
OTHER REFERENCES 29-B92-11-12
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION [REDACTED]
Powys
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 9 October 2012
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb abuse
DATE OF REPORT 17 January 2013

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

2 buzzard
5 pheasant carcase (bait?)
2 goshawk
1 red kite

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
96326	pheasant carcase (bait?)	21/11/12	VLA: 29-B92-11-12, HJ2, zip tie no. RS0219
96327	pheasant carcase (bait?)	21/11/12	VLA: 29-B92-11-12, HJ3 ZIP tie no. RS0272
96328	pheasant carcase (bait?)	21/11/12	VLA: 29-B92-11-12, HJ5 zip tie no. RS0255
96329	pheasant carcase (bait?)	21/11/12	VLA: 29-B92-11-12, HJ6 zip tie no. RS0243
96330	pheasant carcase (bait?)	21/11/12	VLA: 29-B92-11-12, HJ7 zip tie no. RS0239

Summary of field data

Several dead birds of prey and suspected baits were found on a shooting estate. The RSPB had received information that poisoned baits were being put down on the estate to poison birds of prey. The RSPB visited the area and collected five suspected baits and five dead birds of prey - one red kite, two buzzards and two goshawks. The red kite was found very close to two suspected baits. One of these baits was covered in dead insects. The area was kept under surveillance but no other activity was noted. The incident occurred in a rural area with sheep, cattle and game keeping.

Summary of post mortem report

There is no post mortem information available for this incident.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

96326	bendiocarb	confirmed	84	mg
96327	bendiocarb	confirmed	26	mg
96329	bendiocarb	confirmed	60	mg
96330	bendiocarb	confirmed	71	mg

Conclusion

Only the pheasant carcasses, which were suspected poisoned baits, were available for testing. Laboratory analysis for a range of carbamate pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples and a residue of bendiocarb was confirmed in all the remains tested. The baits were very autolysed, with little recognisable structures remaining, apart from a wing, or legs and feet. It appears that bendiocarb has been intentionally applied to pheasant carcasses, which is an abuse of the pesticide. Several raptors may have also been killed following this action, but the carcasses were considered to be unsuitable for further testing.