

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

106/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 106/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/30
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0109-10-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Pontfadog, Wrexham
Denbighshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ2539
INCIDENT DATE 12 October 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 19 December 2022

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received	Date received	Sample identifier
100837 buzzard	3/11/22	28/B109/10/22

Summary of field data

The RSPB received a report of a dead buzzard. A local raptor officer visited the area to collect the carcass the following day. It was found on a hedge embankment beside a minor road lying face down with one wing extended. There were two photographs taken of the carcass in situ, before being seized. The area is well stocked with pheasants and a number of rearing pens were visible in the immediate area along with cover crops. The carcass was stored frozen and arrangements were made with a local veterinary practice to x-ray it. As there was no evidence of the buzzard having been shot, the death was reported to Welsh Government and arrangements were made to transfer it to the APHA. There was a previous incident in the area where a red kite was poisoned following the suspected illegal use of bendiocarb (see 34/21, W/21/06).

Summary of post mortem report

A frozen specimen 1 was received double-bagged inside a cardboard box labelled W/22/30, barcode 56167. The bag seal number was 1234666. Information on the label had identification ref.: NJ03, Description: Dead buzzard, Time/Date seized: 16:40 13-10-22. The sex was unidentifiable and the degree of autolysis was severe. The carcass was unsuitable for a full post mortem examination as the skin and the majority of the soft tissues were desiccated, with complete loss of the integrity of all internal organs. The whole carcass was submitted to Fera for toxicology analysis.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100837	bendiocarb	confirmed	5.6	µg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

100837	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	70	µg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, particularly given the location and a previous poisoning in the area in 2021. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted carcass, which consisted of a whole bird with head, wings and both feet intact. The talons were clenched and the carcass was very dry with no obvious organs remaining, but tests on a surface wash of this have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb. The amount found is very small, but the carcass had clearly been in-situ for some days or even weeks. Therefore, given the sample condition and other supporting information it is possible that exposure to bendiocarb that had been illegally abused is the cause of death of this buzzard. However, the possible poisoned bait that may have been used is uncertain at present.

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