WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 39/18

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER	39/18
PART OF STUDY	FSGD-209
REGIONAL NUMBER	W/18/11
OTHER REFERENCES	28/B0099/04/18
SENDER	VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION	Tondu, Bridgend Glamorgan
GRID REFERENCE	SS8884
INCIDENT DATE	12 April 2018
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT	bendiocarb abuse
DATE OF REPORT	13 July 2018

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99028	red kite		1/5/18	28-B0099-04-18
99028	red kite	tissues	1/5/18	28-B0099-04-18

Summary of field data

A dead red kite was found and it had no obvious signs of trauma and so it was thought to be unusual and possibly poisoned. The carcase was taken to a Wildlife Trust office, where it was placed in frozen storage. The Police were notified and they contacted Welsh Government about the incident. The finder confirmed that there is a breeding pair of red kites in the area and that some local farmers do not like them as they believe that they take new born lambs. The Police completed a search of the area, but did not find any obvious possible poison bait material, or other suspicious items. Arrangements were made for Welsh Government to collect the carcase and take it to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

A male, adult red kite was submitted for post-mortem in good body condition and 0.85kg weight. There was no leg ring noted. One eye was missing and given the lack of haemorrhage it might have been predated, but otherwise the external examination was unremarkable. The skin and subcutis were unremarkable. There were multiple ecchymotic haemorrhages in the pectoral muscles. The crop contained the tail and hindlimb of what resembled a small mammal. The stomach contained fur, tail and body parts resembling small mammals. The respiratory, cardiovascular, lymphoreticular, urinary and nervous system were unremarkable. The endocrine and reproductive systems were not examined.

Analysis : chloralose

99028	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.03	mg/kg

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99028	gizzard contents	bendiocarb	confirmed	15	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99028	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.6	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99028	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.013	mg/kg
99028	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0011	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of bendiocarb in the gizzard contents of this red kite and the amount found is likely to have caused the death of this bird. There were also small residues of difenacoum and brodifacoum confirmed in the liver of this bird, but these are consistent with background exposure only. From the description of the crop and gizzard content there is nothing to indicate what bait material might be involved in the poisoning of this red kite, but given that bendiocarb has been found abuse of it is suspected.

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