WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 1/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER	1/19
PART OF STUDY	FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER	W/18/33
OTHER REFERENCES	28-B0060-12-18
SENDER	VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION	Monnow Monmouthshire
GRID REFERENCE	SO4224
INCIDENT DATE	18 December 2018
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT	carbofuran abuse
DATE OF REPORT	24 April 2019

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
99291	red kite		3/1/19	APHA: 28/B0060/12/1/8, Spec ONE
99291	red kite	tissues	3/1/19	APHA: 28/B0060/12/1/8, Spec ONE

Summary of field data

A kayaker came across a dead red kite on the side of a river. There were no obvious signs of shooting or trapping and the carcase appeared relatively fresh. The finder took some photos and removed a leg ring (GV34191). The location was close to the Welsh/English border and there were horses in an adjacent field so there was access to the incident site. A visit to the site was arranged and the carcase was delivered to the APHA for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A dead red kite that weighed 1.15kg in a good body condition with a mild degree of autolysis was submitted for post-mortem. The bird had two wing tags, the one on the right wing was broken; the one on the left wing was black with yellow writing: HO. The reporter took a ring off its leg, reported as a BTO ring: GV34191. The right foot was broken off. On examination the bird was clean with good condition of overall feathers; no haemorrhages observed after removal of feathers and skin. There were good muscle masses on the pectoral girdle. The stomachs had a small amount of content inside; content was green-yellow coloured, with mucoid consistency; entire stomachs were included in sample for toxicology. All other systems were unremarkable. To conclude, the red kite was in good condition. The stomachs were almost empty. The cause of death was not established on post-mortem examination.

Analysis : chloralose

99291	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.007	mg/kg

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99291	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	22	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99291	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

99291	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.011	mg/kg
99291	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.021	mg/kg
99291	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00051	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 carbofuran in the limited gizzard content sample available from this bird and this content appeared to be some skin, feathers and semi-digested meat. There were also small residues, consistent with background exposure only, of several anticoagulant rodenticides detected and confirmed in the liver of the red kite and these included brodifacoum, difenacoum, and bromadiolone. The exposure to carbofuran will have caused the death of this red kite and there are no approved uses for it and so the abuse of carbofuran is suspected, but the bait material used is uncertain.

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