WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 40/19

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 40/19

PART OF STUDY FSGD-211

REGIONAL NUMBER W/19/08

OTHER REFERENCES XT/180/19

SENDER Institute of Zoology

LOCATION Clarach, Aberystwyth
Cardiganshire

GRID REFERENCE SN6082

INCIDENT DATE 12 April 2019

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT unknown

DATE OF REPORT 31 July 2019

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : ..... [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 red kite

COPIED TO

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99469	red kite		9/5/19	XT/180/19
99469	red kite	tissues	9/5/19	XT/180/19

Summary of field data

An ill red kite was found hanging on a tree and was unable to move. The bird was taken to a private veterinary surgery, but it suffered progressive paralysis and died within 48 hours. The vets report stated that the bird appeared paralysed or did not know how to move it's legs, but it could move it's head, it was twitchy, with fluffed up head feathers and scrunching claws. The farming practice in the area is uncertain and the carcase was sent to the Institute of Zoology for a post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

An adult male red kite that weighed 786.1g in a moderate condition was submitted for post-mortem. The plumage of the bird was in good condition. A protuberance (approx..33.3 x 22mm) was seen on the caudal area of the neck. The oral cavity had a pink mucosa and contained pink organic material, resembling thinly sliced ham. The corneas of both eyes were opaque, both eyes were quite sunken, and the iris was red bilaterally. On internal examination, no subcutaneous fat or coelomic fat deposits were seen. The sternum showed a mottled dark red colouration. The thyroid glands were blackish red, otherwise nothing abnormal detected. The heart was mottled dark red. The lungs were a mottled black and pink. The liver was dark red throughout and the edges were sharp. The gallbladder was full. The oesophagus had a pale greenish serosa and a pale mucosa. It contained a dry cream coloured paste and organic material closely resembling an undigested lamb's tail. The proventriculus had a dark red serosa and dark pink mucosa. The ventriculus had a dark red serosa and yellowish mucosa. It contained light brown firmly packed dry fibrous material and two orange rubber tail docking/castration rings for lambs. The spleen was blackish brown. The pancreas was dark brown. The serosa and mucosa of the entire intestine were mottled blackish and pink and mainly contained light brown paste, with a segment of a cream coloured ascarid-like helminth in the proximal large intestine. There was a minimal amount of liquid blood in the cancellous bone of the skull; the skull showered a dark red mottle coloration. The brain was dark pink throughout with a slimy and gelatinous consistency. Both kidneys were dark brown throughout the parenchyma. Two testicles were seen. The testes were mature and in breeding condition.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99469	crop/gizzard cont.	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.009	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99469	crop/gizzard cont.	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this red kite had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples, but only crop/gizzard contents was available and so no tests for anticoagulant rodenticides were completed. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found. The cause of death of this red kite remains uncertain.

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