WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 86/24

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 86/24

PART OF STUDY WIIS23

REGIONAL NUMBER W/24/25

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0081-09-24

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Talsarnau
Merioneth

GRID REFERENCE SH6034

INCIDENT DATE 6 September 2024

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue

DATE OF REPORT 14 January 2025

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED [redacted]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 common buzzard

COPIED TO

[redacted]

[redacted]

Direct Phone Number 01904 462456

E-mail: wiis@fera.co.uk

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

86/24

Original thinking... applied

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
101596	common buzzard		23/10/24	APHA ref: 28-B0081-09-24
101596	common buzzard	tissues	23/10/24	APHA ref: 28-B0081-09-24

Summary of field data

A buzzard, reported to be in good condition with eyes intact, was found dead by a member of the public. The incident was reported to the RSPB. An RSPB officer attended the scene, collected the carcass, and took the carcass for x-ray; no evidence of shot was found. The bird was collected and subsequently delivered to the APHA for postmortem by courier. This is a rural area surrounded by farmland consisting of mixed farming practices with large woodland areas nearby. There are buildings dotted about the landscape, which are likely to be a mix of farms, farm buildings and residences.

Summary of post mortem report

One female common buzzard of unknown weight in emaciated body condition with moderate autolysis was submitted dead for post-mortem examination. Brian, cloacal and oro-pharyngeal swabs were taken for AI testing, no Influenza A viral RNA was detected. The keel was very prominent. The crop, oesophagus and proventriculus were empty. The gizzard contained a small amount of fibre. There were multiple tapeworms in the intestines with little content. On the right abdominal air sac, there was a firm grey irregular plaque about 0.5cm diameter. Near the right lung there was a raised nodule on the air sac about 0.3cm diameter, and yellow. There were small, scattered pale nodules over the air sacs. The spleen was slightly enlarged. Other organ systems examined were unremarkable. The buzzard was emaciated and had not recently eaten. It is likely that starvation was the cause of death. There were nodules and plaques identified grossly on the air sacs which raised the suspicion of aspergillosis, but no fungi were recovered from culture and there was no evidence of aspergillosis on histopathology. There were multiple granulomata containing back granular material and one structure containing eggs, some of them operculated. The lesions were mild, and their clinical significance is uncertain; the identity the character of the black material could not be identified. Histopathology revealed well established airsacculitis. In addition, there is evidence of parasitism. Parasitologists suspect, from viewing photographs of parasitic eggs, that they are most likely to be Hovorkonema species, a parasite found in the air sacs of birds of prey.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101596	liver	difethialone	confirmed	0.0022	mg/kg
101596	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.097	mg/kg
101596	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.033	mg/kg
101596	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.01	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, as initially it was thought to be in good condition with no sign of shot. Postmortem indicated that this buzzard was in a poor condition with some indication of infection and parasites, though it is not clear that this contributed to the death of this buzzard. Therefore, laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anti-coagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples. These tests have confirmed residues of difethialone, brodifacoum, difenacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard. The residues found are consistent with background exposure only. Therefore, the cause of death of this buzzard remains uncertain at present.

Fera Science Ltd.
York Biotech Campus,
Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ

www.fera.co.uk
T: +44 (0)300 100 0321
E: sales@fera.co.uk

Original thinking... applied