

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

65/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

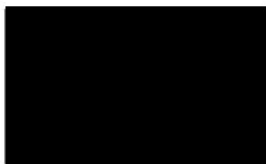
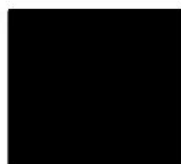
INCIDENT NUMBER 65/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/31
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0147-09-15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llansannan
Gwynedd
GRID REFERENCE SH9365
INCIDENT DATE 10 August 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 30 November 2015

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED
1 sparrowhawk

COPIED TO



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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
98262	sparrowhawk		1/10/15	APHA: 28-B0147-09-15
98262	sparrowhawk	tissues	1/10/15	APHA: 28-B0147-09-15

Summary of field data

A dead female sparrowhawk was found in a back garden. It appeared to have no apparent injuries. A dead sparrow had also been found nearby, but the carcass has been disposed of. The incident was reported to the Welsh Government via the local police and the bird was passed to APHA for a post mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

A female sparrowhawk weight 344g with fair body condition and a mild degree of autolysis was submitted for post mortem. There was the possibility of a small amount of haemorrhage surrounding the cloacal area and the proventriculus and gizzard only contained a small amount of mucus. Gross examination of the rest of the carcass did not reveal any significant abnormality, but the endocrine and genital systems were not examined.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

98262	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.06	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose

98262	kidney	no chloralose detected	detection limit	1	mg/kg
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Analysis : organochlorine analysis suite

98262	liver	DDE-pp	0.4	mg/kg
98262	liver	dieldrin	0.06	mg/kg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

98262	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	4	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

98262	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0005	mg/kg
98262	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0018	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this sparrowhawk had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely agricultural chemicals has been undertaken on the submitted sample. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of difenacoum and brodifacoum in the liver of this sparrowhawk; there were also small residues of dieldrin and DDE noted. However, the amounts found are consistent with exposure only, rather than the cause of death of the bird. Therefore, the cause of death of this sparrowhawk remains uncertain.