

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

80/22



Original thinking... applied

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 80/22
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/22/23
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0053-08-22
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Criccieth
Gwynedd
GRID REFERENCE SH4937
INCIDENT DATE 26 July 2022
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation
DATE OF REPORT 7 November 2022

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 osprey

COPIED TO

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Samples received

Date received

Sample identifier

100804	osprey		24/8/22	28/B0053/08/22
100804	osprey	tissues	24/8/22	28/B0053/08/22

Summary of field data

A dead osprey was found on a beach with no sign of injury. The bird had leg rings belonging to the Dyfi Osprey Project. Radiography was arranged for the carcase and this reported to not have identified any traumatic injuries or gunshot pellets and so the find was reported to Welsh Government. The carcase was collected and stored in a freezer at a Police station until arrangements could be made to transport it to the APHA.

Summary of post mortem report

An osprey was submitted frozen for post-mortem examination, with a blue tag, KA3 (left leg) and BTO ring 1702407 (right leg). The sex was unknown, poor body condition with severe autolysis. The carcase was not weighed. The osprey was quadruple bagged as follows; outer clear bag with yellow North Wales police exhibit reference tag, sealed clear plastic evidence bag ID RO1984297, clear bag and yellow bag. The feathers were mostly missing from the carcase, skin was intact. The keel bone was prominent, pectoral muscles were poorly developed. The proventriculus was empty. A scant amount of square segmented yellow-brown material mixed with a few small seeds was present in the gizzard. Very scant dark cream liquid proximal small intestinal content, the remaining intestinal tract was empty. The lung tissue had disintegrated. The spleen could not be identified due to autolysis. The kidneys were disintegrating. The sex organs could not be identified. The brain tissue was liquid, and the eyes had disintegrated. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. The endocrine system was not examined.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

100804	liver	no rodenticide & chloralose detected	detection limit	0.02	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this osprey had been poisoned, as there were no other obvious injuries noted. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anticoagulant rodenticides only has been undertaken on the submitted samples, but no residues were found. The findings on examination were poor body condition and scant gastro-intestinal contents, which is consistent with no or little recent feeding activity. The inability to source food may be due to poorly developed and wasted pectoral muscles that may have been significant enough to inhibit flying. Therefore, starvation may have contributed to the death of this osprey, given the test results and examination findings.

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