WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT 22/25

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 22/25

PART OF STUDY WIIS25

REGIONAL NUMBER W/25/05

OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0040-02-25

SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC

LOCATION Llandyfaelog
Carmarthenshire

GRID REFERENCE SN4211

INCIDENT DATE 6 February 2025

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT starvation

DATE OF REPORT 22 April 2025

REPORTING OFFICER [redacted]

SIGNED : . [redacted] .....

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 common buzzard

COPIED TO

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
101710	common buzzard		10/3/25	APHA ref: 28-B0040-02-25
101710	common buzzard	tissues	10/3/25	APHA ref: 28-B0040-02-25

Summary of field data

A buzzard with no obvious signs of injury was found dead along a footpath by a river. Two other buzzards had been found dead in a field nearby in the preceding months. An additional two buzzards had also been found dead in the wider area in the months leading up to this latest find. The carcass was sent to the APHA for postmortem. This is a rural area surrounded by mainly livestock and some arable farmland with associated farm buildings and small pockets of woodland and a river.

Summary of post mortem report

One common buzzard of unknown sex in emaciated condition having undergone severe autolysis was submitted dead for postmortem. Brain, cloacal and oro-pharyngeal swabs were taken for AI testing, no Influenza A viral RNA was detected. The gizzard was empty and there was no intestinal content. Examination of all other organ systems was unremarkable. This buzzard was emaciated and had no GI tract content. Emaciation/starvation seems the most likely cause of death in this animal however, unfortunately it is not possible to establish how this has occurred in the first place.

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101710	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.12	mg/kg
101710	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0054	mg/kg
101710	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.081	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this buzzard had been poisoned, as several buzzards had been found dead in the area over a period of several months. The bird was in an emaciated state, and the gizzard was empty, so it had not eaten before death. Laboratory analysis for chloralose and a range of anti-coagulant rodenticides only was undertaken on the submitted samples from this buzzard. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of difenacoum, brodifacoum and bromadiolone in the liver of this buzzard. There were no haemorrhagic findings reported in the post-mortem, though the carcass had undergone severe autolysis which may have masked haemorrhagic lesions. The concentration of brodifacoum and bromadiolone are consistent with exposure levels only, but the difenacoum residue is close to a level where it may have contributed to the death of the buzzard. Conclusions from the post-mortem examination suggest that the emaciated condition of the buzzard is indicative of starvation as cause of the death of this buzzard, but it clear that this buzzard has been exposed to rodenticides likely from pest control treatments in the area.

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