

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

53/15



WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 53/15
PART OF STUDY FSGD-208
REGIONAL NUMBER W/15/27
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0278/06/15
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Aber Village
Brecknockshire
GRID REFERENCE SO1120
INCIDENT DATE 12 June 2015
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT shot
DATE OF REPORT 22 September 2015

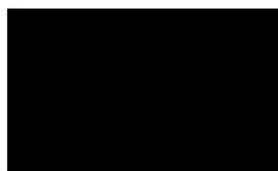
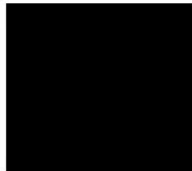
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

| | |
|---|---------|
| 7 | corvid |
| 5 | crow |
| 4 | jackdaw |
| 1 | rook |

COPIED TO



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| Samples received | | Date received | Sample identifier |
|------------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|
| 98138 | crow | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 1 |
| 98138 | crow | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 1 |
| 98139 | rook | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 2 |
| 98139 | rook | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 2 |
| 98140 | jackdaw | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 6 |
| 98140 | jackdaw | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 6 |
| 98141 | jackdaw | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 10 |
| 98141 | jackdaw | 7/7/15 | 28-B0278-06-15 : 10 |

Summary of field data

A large number of dead corvids were seen in an area. A member of the public reported this find to the local authority, as a large number of crow species were dead along a short section of road. This area was visited by an Area Parks Officer, who counted 17 dead birds along a one mile stretch of the highway. These were reported to be mostly jackdaws, at least one raven, rook and carrion crow. Most of these were dead on the tarmac, but there were several lying dead in the gullies; it appeared as if they had been thrown from a vehicle. On a later visit to this location, just ten birds could be located and these were collected for analysis. Some of these were in a poor condition as they had been squashed, making identification to species level difficult. Some carcasses were collected and forwarded for post-mortem.

Summary of post mortem report

Ten corvid carcasses were submitted for post-mortem examination. On analysis five of the bodies were confirmed as being carrion crows, four were jackdaws and there was a rook. The crows ranged from 253g to 452g and their sex was not discernible. The jackdaws were 224g, a male and 242g, the others were not weighed and the sex was not discernible. In one jackdaw there was a small circular hole at the top of the cranium of the skull, with severe haemorrhage, but no lead shot was detected. The rook, weight 463g and male. Samples were taken from just four birds as the rest were in poor condition having been flattened on the road. Samples were available and were taken from a jackdaw where the only sign of injury was to its cranium, the rook which showed severe trauma with fractured spine and breast bone and from a partially scavenged carrion crow (stomach contents and muscle only available) and a jackdaw (most internal organs scavenged but sample was taken). Due to the poor state of the carcasses it was not possible to ascertain cause of death.

Analysis : chloralose

| | | | | | |
|-------|--------|------------------------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 98139 | kidney | no chloralose detected | detection limit | 0.4 | mg/kg |
| 98140 | kidney | no chloralose detected | detection limit | 0.9 | mg/kg |

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------|
| 98139 | liver | flocoumafen | confirmed | 0.00025 | mg/kg |
| 98140 | liver | no rodenticide detected | detection limit | 0.003 | mg/kg |

Conclusion

It was suspected that these corvids had been poisoned, given their number within a confined area. Laboratory analysis for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples. However, no residues from the compound groups tested for were found, although there was a small residue of flocoumafen noted in the liver of a rook. The amount found is considered to be consistent with exposure, rather than the cause of death of the rook. At least a jackdaw, had signs consistent with being shot, but these signs were not easily assessed in the other carcasses due to their condition. Therefore, traumatic injuries may account for the death of these corvids but, examination of them was hindered by the state of the carcasses.