

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REVISED REPORT

99/20



Original thinking... applied

INCIDENT NUMBER 99/20
PART OF STUDY FSGD-211
REGIONAL NUMBER W/20/17
OTHER REFERENCES 28/B0009/08/20
SENDER VLA Carmarthen
LOCATION Llandinam
Powys
GRID REFERENCE SO0186
INCIDENT DATE 31 July 2020
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue
DATE OF REPORT 5 January 2021

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 pheasant carcass (bait?)
1 goshawk

COPIED TO

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
99996	goshawk	tissues	13/8/20	28/B0009/08/20 : 1
99996	goshawk		13/8/20	28/B0009/08/20 : 1
99997	pheasant carcass (bait?)		13/8/20	28/B0009/08/20 : 2

Summary of field data

A dead goshawk was found on a dead young poult. They were found in a tree house at a farm and the land surrounding the site has pheasant shoots. The birds were collected and stored in a cool place and arrangements were made to get the carcasses to the APHA for an examination. There have been some previous illegal poisoning incidents in the wider area, for example a case with a red kite : 126/06, W/06/34 - chloralose.

Summary of post mortem report

A dead goshawk carcass was submitted for post-mortem and it was a weight of 1331g, an unknown sex, good body condition and moderate autolysis. The goshawk (specimen 1) was received in a sealed clear plastic evidence bag with attached paper evidence label, which was retained. The eyes were very sunken. There were multiple 3-4mm maggots and green-brown liquid over the feathers of the head and ventral neck. There were maggots and brown discoloured feathers at the vent. The distal oesophagus was distended with approximately 50ml of mixed muscle, heart, liver, intestinal tract and small bones. The proventriculus and gizzard contained feathers, intestine and bones including a long bone approximately 4cm long. There were blood clots adjacent to the left lung and the lungs were dark red and congested. Further abnormalities were not detected on examination of the remaining body systems, but the endocrine and genital systems was not examined. Also received, but not examined in detail was part of a smaller avian carcass labelled "poult (bait)" and weighing 223g in the bag. The poult (bait) (specimen 2) was submitted in a black plastic bag with attached paper evidence label, which was retained.

Analysis : chloralose

99996	liver	no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.05	mg/kg
99997		no chloralose detected	detection limit	0.4	µg

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

99996	stomach contents	isofenphos	confirmed	0.014	mg/kg
99997		no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	2.0	µg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

99996	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
99997		no organophosphate detected	detection limit	8.0	µg

Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

99996	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0044	mg/kg
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Analysis : strychnine

99996	stomach contents	no strychnine detected	detection limit	0.001	mg/kg
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Conclusion

It was suspected that this goshawk had been poisoned. Initial priority testing for some likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples and a very small residue of isofenphos was detected and confirmed in the stomach content submitted from the goshawk, which consisted of bones, meat, fat and feathers. However, there were no residues found in the poult which had not many feathers remaining, very little meat on the breast and very little internal tissue. The examination findings on the goshawk of a good body condition and recent feeding are consistent with poisoning of it and further testing will be completed on both the samples. The cause of death of the goshawk remains uncertain at present and a revised report will be issued.

Further testing for chloralose was completed on the submitted samples, but no residues were detected. Therefore, the cause of death of the goshawk remains uncertain at present and further routine testing for anticoagulant rodenticides will be completed and a revised report issued if residues are found.

Some further testing was completed on samples from the goshawk, but there were no residues of strychnine found in the stomach content sample. There was a small residue of brodifacoum detected and confirmed in the liver of this goshawk, but this is likely to be consistent with exposure only. The cause of death of the goshawk still remains uncertain, although a very small residue of isofenphos has been confirmed which is often associated with abuse cases.

This replaces the earlier reports issued on the 25 August and 25 September 2020.