

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 148/21
PART OF STUDY FSGD-213
REGIONAL NUMBER W/21/25
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0034-10-21
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC
LOCATION Llanarmon
Caernarfonshire
GRID REFERENCE SJ1535
INCIDENT DATE 21 September 2021
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT bendiocarb
abuse
DATE OF REPORT 16 November 2021

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

2 buzzard
2 pheasant carcase (bait?)

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
100563	pheasant carcase (bait?)	15/10/21	28-B138-09-21
100564	pheasant carcase (bait?)	15/10/21	28-B138-09-21 dre/1

Summary of field data

A dead buzzard and possible bait were found. The buzzard carcase was found at the base of a tree that was close to a pheasant release pen and it was lying on its back on a stony soil surface, with some pine needles on top of it. The pheasant carcase was found on a tree stump that was beside an access track to the pheasant pen. The carcasses were retrieved by [REDACTED] and the case was reported to Welsh Government. An x-ray had been undertaken on the buzzard and a radio-dense object had been noted within the skull. The vet was unsure if this was a shot gun pellet, as he could not open the packaging and inspect the carcase and there were stones and other material within the bag. The police led another search on 6th October and another buzzard and a possible bait carcase were retrieved. The buzzard carcase was in a poor condition, with the head falling off when it was seized. The pheasant carcase was in an old feed bag, which was thought to be suspicious. There were other dead pheasant carcasses, but these were not seized as they appeared to be intact. Arrangements were made to transfer the carcasses to the APHA. There are two estates in the area.

Summary of post mortem report

The first buzzard was not suitable for examination. A buzzard carcase of weight and sex that was not recorded and body condition that was not assessed. The degree of autolysis was severe and the carcase consisted of feathers and bones only. A separate item, that was believed to be the head of this buzzard was a skull and beak only. The remaining tissues were missing so no sampling or testing was possible. Both buzzards could not be screened for AI, so it was not possible to send remains for toxicology testing.

Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

100563	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected		0.04	µg
100564	bendiocarb	confirmed	18500	µg

Conclusion

It was suspected that this was a typical raptor poisoning, with pheasant carcasses used as the poison bait. Unfortunately, the buzzard carcasses had no suitable tissues remaining and so could not be tested for Avian Influenza screening. Therefore, no samples from them were available for testing. Laboratory analysis for metaldehyde and a range of carbamate pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted pheasant carcasses. These tests have detected and confirmed bendiocarb in the pheasant that was found in the feed sack, but no residues were found on the other carcase. It appears that the abuse of bendiocarb has occurred at this location and some buzzards may also have been poisoned, but this could not be confirmed by testing of them.