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From: Wildlife
Sent: 06 October 2020 12:27
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wildlife
Subject: Golden eagle post mortem results

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We have received the final post mortem results from our vets who have carried out a very thorough post mortem on the golden eagle which is why it has taken longer than usual to get the results. The PM included histology of the brain which did not add any further information.

The results are that the golden eagle died as a result of systemic aspergillosis.

At post-mortem examination the bird was emaciated and there were extensive, multiple white plaques throughout the whole carcass. *Aspergillus fumigatus* was cultured from multiple sites and histopathology confirmed systemic aspergillosis.

Aspergillosis is the most common fungal mycosis in birds. *Aspergillus fumigatus* is a ubiquitous opportunistic organism and factors impairing the birds' immunity can predispose to disease. No underlying immunocompromising factors were detected on testing. There were extensive, chronic lesions throughout the carcass likely resulting in reduced feed intake, ill-thrift and dehydration and ultimately death.

The vets have a policy of not releasing carcasses which is largely due to the disease risk. In this particular case, due to the extensive PM, there is very little intact carcass remaining.

Kind regards

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