

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

20/09



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

INCIDENT NUMBER 20/09
PART OF STUDY FSGD-050
REGIONAL NUMBER W/09/06
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0072/02/09
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth
LOCATION Senny Bridge
Powys
GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]
INCIDENT DATE 9 February 2009
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT trauma
DATE OF REPORT 11 May 2009

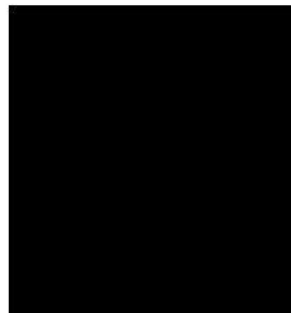
REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : ... [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 red kite

COPIED TO



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WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

Samples received			Date received	Sample identifier
78547	red kite	tissues	13/2/09	Specimen No: W/09/06-2 VLA No: 29/B0072/02/09
78549	buzzard	tissues	13/2/09	Specimen No: W/09/06-1 VLA No: 29/B0072/02/09

Summary of field data

An injured red kite was seen at the side of an A road. The kite was fighting with a buzzard over a dead buzzard carcass at the side of the road. Both birds were collected and taken to a vet, and the buzzard was given to someone who rehabilitates birds. It was reported that the buzzard was very thin and was displaying different signs to other starving buzzards seen. It appeared to have lost the use of its legs and it died despite treatment. The red kite also died. It was reported that a whole mouse had been regurgitated, which was considered unusual behaviour.

Summary of post mortem report

A red kite, with a white "F" on a black wing tag and leg ring, AJ62137, was submitted for post-mortem. It was in good body condition, well muscled and fairly severe autolysis. There was extensive bruising of the abdomen and anterior left thigh. The stomach was empty. The buzzard weighed 728g and was in fair to good condition, with mild to moderate autolysis. It was well feathered, reasonably well muscled and there was bruising to the left thorax. There were two fractured ribs on the right side, with associated haemorrhage in the body cavity. There was some unidentifiable grey material in the stomach. The gonads of both birds could not be identified and other systems were unremarkable.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

78547	gizzard contents	no carbamate (LC) detected	detection limit	0.07	mg/kg
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Analysis : chloralose-alpha

78547	kidney	no chloralose-alpha detected	detection limit	0.3	mg/kg
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Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

78547	gizzard contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg
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Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

78547	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.037	mg/kg
78547	liver	bromadiolone		0.0045	mg/kg
78549	liver	difenacoum		0.0024	mg/kg

Conclusion

It was suspected that these birds had been poisoned. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the red kite and tests for anticoagulant rodenticides only were undertaken on the buzzard. These tests have detected and confirmed some difenacoum in the liver of the red kite and a smaller amount of bromadiolone may also be present. A small liver residue of difenacoum, may also be present in the buzzard. Evidence of trauma was noted in these birds, particularly in the buzzard. Therefore, a traumatic injury may account for their death, as no other significant pesticide residues have been found. However, it appears that exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, difenacoum and bromadiolone, has also occurred.