

WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

77/11



The Food and Environment
Research Agency

WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

RESTRICTED

INCIDENT NUMBER 77/11
PART OF STUDY FSGD-130
REGIONAL NUMBER W/11/14
OTHER REFERENCES 29/B0010/07/11
SENDER VLA Aberystwyth

LOCATION Coity Mountain, nr Blaina
Monmouthshire

GRID REFERENCE [REDACTED]

INCIDENT DATE 4 July 2011

SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT carbofuran
abuse

DATE OF REPORT 26 August 2011

REPORTING OFFICER [REDACTED]

SIGNED : [REDACTED]

NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

1 buzzard
1 pigeon carcass (bait?)
2 raven

COPIED TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier
91476	raven	8/7/11	VLA ref 29-B0010-07-11, Raven 1
91476	raven	tissues	8/7/11 VLA ref 29-B0010-07-11, Raven 1
91477	raven	8/7/11	VLA ref 29-B0010-07-11, Raven 2
91477	raven	tissues	8/7/11 VLA ref 29-B0010-07-11, Raven 2
91478	buzzard	8/7/11	VLA ref: 29-B0010-07-11
91478	buzzard	tissues	8/7/11 VLA ref: 29-B0010-07-11
91479	pigeon carcass (bait?)	8/7/11	VLA ref.: 29-B0010-07-11

Summary of field data

Two dead ravens and a dead buzzard were found at a former peregrine site. The carcasses were on an open hill. There were peregrines poisoned at this site following the abuse of carbofuran last year (99/10, W/10/17 refers). There were two half eaten racing pigeons also found in the area. All the carcasses were collected and the incident was reported to the Welsh Assembly Government. There were no peregrines nesting at this site this year, although there is a successful nest not far away.

Summary of post mortem report

Two adult ravens, a male and female, both of weight 1.5kg and a buzzard, an adult female of 1.1kg were submitted for post-mortem. All were in good body condition, but with severe autolysis and they were not ringed. Adult maggots were present in the plumage of all three bird carcasses. There was partial evisceration of the buzzard carcass. Feather and muscle was present in the proventriculus and crop of all three birds. There were no other lesions seen in organs examined, but the endocrine system was not examined in any of these three birds and all brain tissue was liquefying. One headless pigeon carcass and the head of another pigeon were not examined and were sent on for analysis.

Analysis : carbamate (LC) analysis suite

91476	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	270	mg/kg
91478	gizzard contents	carbofuran	confirmed	8.3	mg/kg
91479		bendiocarb	confirmed	28	µg

Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

91476	gizzard contents	diazinon	confirmed	0.57	mg/kg
91476	gizzard contents	chlorpyrifos	confirmed	1.3	mg/kg
91478	gizzard contents	diazinon	confirmed	0.026	mg/kg
91478	gizzard contents	chlorpyrifos	confirmed	0.1	mg/kg
91479		no organophosphate detected	detection limit	3	µg

Analysis : rodenticide analysis suite

91476	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.13	mg/kg
91478	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.014	mg/kg
91478	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.00074	mg/kg
91478	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.0062	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 submitted samples. These tests have detected and confirmed a residue of carbofuran in the gizzard content of the birds examined and this is likely to be the cause of their death. In addition, there were also

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small, confirmed, residues of diazinon and chlorpyrifos and these were again found in the gizzard content of both birds. There were also confirmed residues of difenacoum in the liver of one raven and the buzzard and bromadiolone and brodifacoum were also found in the liver of the buzzard. The pigeon carcass was very decomposed and was mainly feather and bone, with tags still present. A small bendiocarb residue only was confirmed from these pigeon remains. It appears that the abuse of carbofuran continues at this location, although the pigeon may not be the bait involved in this poisoning incident. These three birds have probably eaten the same material, given the similar additional small residues of diazinon and chlorpyrifos, but it is not certain where or when this occurred.