

Animal & Plant Health Agency

Kendal Road, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 4HD, UK

Animal &
Plant Health
Agency**WILDLIFE INCIDENT INVESTIGATION SCHEME (WIIS)****APHA REPORT ON SAMPLES RECEIVED AND EXAMINATIONS PERFORMED****APHA Ref No(s):**

WIIS Number: 105/310

Date Received: 10/10/2018

Submitted by: [REDACTED]

Post Mortem External to APHA? No

Samples frozen? Some

Material Submitted (Species/Bait)

Class	Group	Type	NE Specimen No.	APHA Ref No.
Avian	Waterfowl	Mixed species	105/310 a/b/c	26-B0088-10-18

REPORT NUMBER: 1**REPORT STATUS: PRELIMINARY****HISTORY**

Ten birds were submitted from Victoria Park in Smethwick. A couple of birds had been collected and frozen by the council, the remainder had been collected by the RSPCA. The water in the park appeared to be of poor quality. Some birds appear to die very acutely, the swan was alive and appeared normal on one day and was dead the next. The live cases seen by the RSPCA included a Canada goose described as having a "floppy neck" and geese gasping/mouth breathing and then dying very quickly. Head shaking and curved necks were also observed as well as birds unable to walk but dragging themselves around using their wings, particularly some of the mallard ducks. Birds were seen just floating on the water appearing not interested in food. One bird had leaches around its eyes and had damage to the eyes themselves. Many of the dead birds have been on the water or on the islands. There were bird deaths also back in July, when 12-15 birds were found dead. This time 15 dead bird carcasses had been collected, a couple from the 27th September and the rest were from 8th October. There were numerous rodent bait boxes around the lake, it appeared the lids were not properly closed on some of them.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Identification	Sex	Body Condition	Degree of Autolysis	Submitted Live/Dead/Frozen
Bird 1: Canada Goose	Unknown	-	-	Frozen
Bird 2: Canada Goose	Unknown	-	-	Frozen
Bird 3: Canada Goose	Unknown	-	-	Frozen
Bird 4: Mallard	Male	Fat	Moderate	Euthanased and frozen
Bird 5: Canada Goose	Unknown	Fat	Moderate	Euthanased and frozen
Bird 6: Canada Goose	Unknown	Fat	Moderate	Dead
Bird 7: Mallard	Female	Fat	Severe	Dead
Bird 8: Mallard	Male	Fat	Moderate	Dead
Bird 9: Mallard	Male	Fat	Moderate	Dead
Bird 10: Swan (no head, black legs, species uncertain)	Male	Fat	Moderate	Dead

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE

Bird 4: The beak and mid neck were fractured.

Bird 5: There was a 4cm diameter area of skin missing over the left thorax and some damage to the underlying muscle.

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Bird 6: The head, particularly the left side and the upper neck soft tissues had been removed, from likely scavenger damage.

Bird 10: The entire head and neck were missing, from likely scavenger damage.

NECROPSY FINDINGS

Musculoskeletal system:

Bird 5: There was a discrete area of haemorrhage in the muscle on the right side of the abdomen.

Peritoneal cavity:

Bird 10: The liver had numerous pale/white patches of between 4mm and 20mm diameter, visible on the liver surface and extending into the liver parenchyma.

Alimentary system:

Birds 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9: Sandy grit contents only within the gizzard. Bird 10: Some small stones/grit only within the gizzard. Bird 5: The gizzard and proventriculus were well filled with green plant material.

Birds 6, 7, 8, 10: Some white opaque liquid content within the proventriculus.

Birds 4, 6, 7, 8: Some brown opaque liquid intestinal contents. Bird 9: Yellow opaque liquid intestinal content. Birds 1, 2, 10: Green liquid intestinal contents. Bird 5: The intestines were well filled with green firmish contents.

Thoracic cavity:

Bird 5: There were blood clots and some free blood within the left side of the thorax.

Cardiovascular system:

Bird 6: There was some yellow fluid within the pericardial sac.

There were no other significant findings following gross examination of the birds. Bird 3 was not examined.

Virology

Sample	Influenza PCR Overall Result
1 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
2 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
3 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
4 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
5 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
6 (BV, INT)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
7 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
8 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
9 (OS, CS)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
10 (CS,BV,INT)	No Influenza A viral RNA detected

WORK IN PROGRESS

West Nile Virus x 3

COMMENT

The majority of examinable birds had an absence of food within the gizzard (sand or grit only) and reduced amounts of liquid intestinal contents only, with little other gross findings; findings suspicious of botulism as the potential cause of death in birds 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Bird 5 had blood in the thorax including blood clots, a wound on the left side and bruising on the right abdomen, and had been

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feeding normally prior to death. In this case trauma and possibly predator attack looked the most likely cause of death.

The white mottling in the liver of bird 10 looked most likely as a result of post mortem bacterial growth.

Birds 5, 6 and 10 also had carcass damage suggestive of predator or scavenger damage.

There were no specific findings that would suggest rodenticide ingestion in any of the examined birds.

Signature:

Case Pathologist: [REDACTED], Veterinary Investigation Officer

Date: 26 October 2018

Specimen Disposal/Despatch

(Remains of carcasses incinerated if not otherwise stated)

Tissues (standard samples x 9 birds) collected and retained frozen pending APHA lab tests and/or decision by wildlife adviser.

Date...12/10/18...

Contract OM0047 or OG0143 Details (as entered on FarmFile)

Number of pm examinations performed by APHA..9..

Number of additional tests performed by APHA
...TBC...

Charges for this laboratory work will be invoiced separately.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

‡ - Test subcontracted; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.

† - Not UKAS accredited; opinions given and interpretations of the result are outside the scope of UKAS accreditation.

For further details of the test methods used, and other terms and conditions, please refer to the AHVLA Website.



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