



# U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

## MIGRATORY BIRD POISONINGS

Federal Criminal Investigators

Seek Reporting of Wildlife Poisoning Incidents

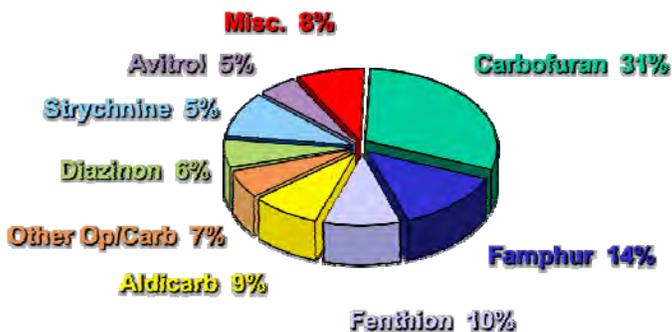
The victims range from dogs and cats to bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, crows, great horned owls, songbirds, and virtually every carnivore found across the United States. Thousands of animals die each year as the result of the intentional use of “poison” to kill any prey that consumes it. Wildlife poisoning is indiscriminate and may pose a significant hazard to endangered species, domestic animals, and even humans.



### Commonly Used Poisons

The two most common “poisons” used unlawfully in the Southeast are Furadan (Carbofuran – labeled for alfalfa and corn crops) and Temik (Aldicarb – labeled for cotton and peanut crops). Both are carbamate insecticides that EPA has designated as “restricted-use pesticides.”

Of 190 poisoning cases worked by the USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, 31% involved the use of Furadan; Temik was found in 9% of the poisonings.



### FEDERAL LAWS

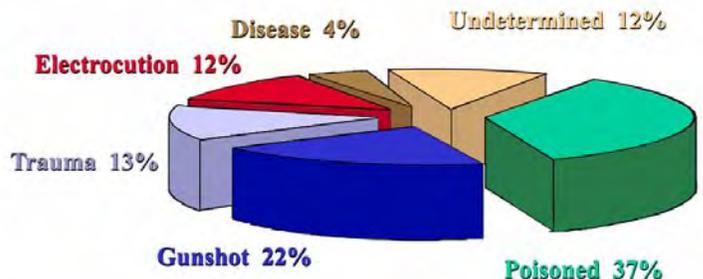
#### Migratory Bird Treaty Act

This federal wildlife law prohibits the killing of migratory birds such as eagles, hawks, owls, and songbirds. All poisoning incidents that involve the deaths of migratory birds violate this law and can result in a fine of up to \$15,000 and/or six months in prison.

#### Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act

This federal law, in part, prohibits the use of restricted-use pesticides, such as Furadan and Temik, in a manner inconsistent with their labeling. The labels on these products specifically forbid their use on “bait.” The misuse and application of restricted-use pesticides on “bait” can result in penalties of up to \$100,000 and/or one year in prison.

### Causes of Death in Eagles N=756 Carcasses



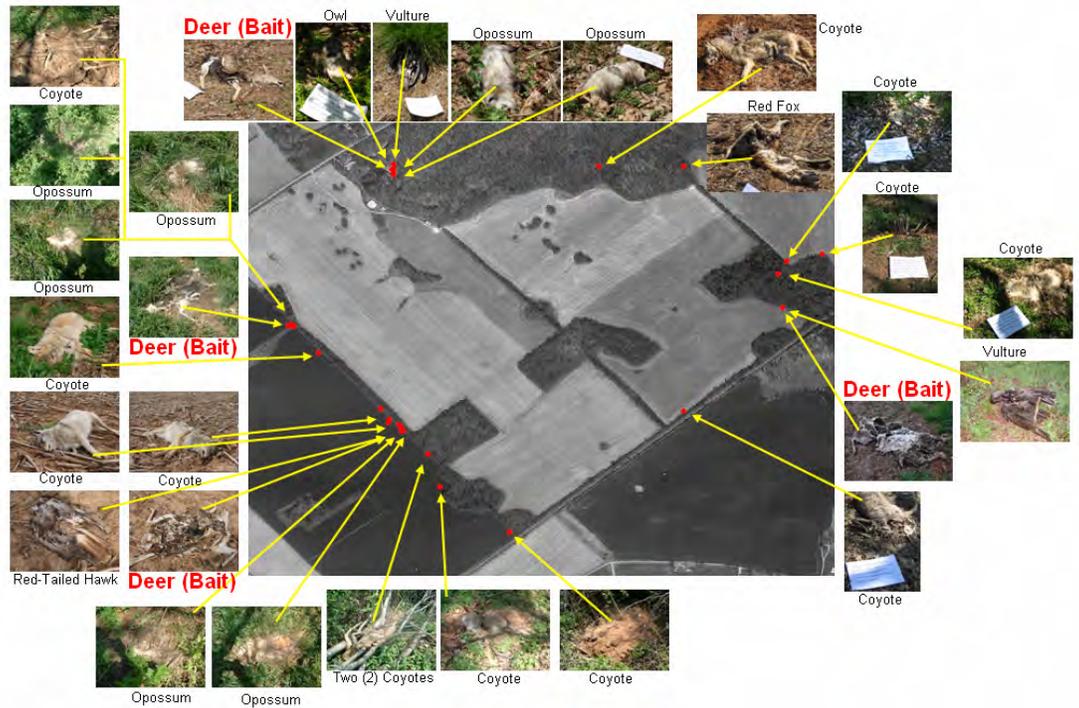
NFWFL data provided by Dr. Richard K. Stroud DVM MS  
Veterinary Medical Examiner

The number of eagles killed each year by illegal use of restricted-use pesticides and other poisons is alarming. The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory reports that 37% of all eagles submitted for necropsy during criminal investigations have been poisoned.

## Current Trends

Pesticides are most often used to unlawfully control predators near pens where roosters are tethered and at some livestock operations. In both cases, pesticides typically are applied to a bait carcass (such as a deer, calf, sheep, or chicken) or are injected into eggs or hotdogs.

## Carbofuran Poisoning in Kentucky



**POISON** 

### CAUTION: Temik and Furadan are extremely toxic!

Do not attempt to pick up dead animals. Very small amounts of these pesticides can easily kill an adult. Skin contact or breathing small amounts of dust may be fatal. These carbamate pesticides work by interfering with the chemistry of the nervous system, which disrupts regulation of the heart and lungs. Upon exposure, the body's reaction is quick and symptoms begin within several minutes.



Report confirmed or suspected poisoning incidents by calling the Southeast Regional USFWS Law Enforcement Office at 404/679-7057 or contacting a local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service special agent.

**For more information contact:**

**Bob Snow, Senior Special Agent**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Office of Law Enforcement**  
**601 W. Broadway, Suite 115A**  
**Louisville, KY 40202**  
**ph: 502/582-5989 x29**

or

**Anthony Velasco, Ecologist**  
**Environmental Contaminants Division**  
**Kentucky Ecological Services Office**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**330 W. Broadway, Room 265**  
**Frankfort, KY 40601**  
**ph: 502/695-0468 x105**

Affix Local FWS/OLE Contact Label Here