

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CREATE POLLUTION AND BECOME ECOLOGICAL TRAP FOR EASTERN FOX SQUIRRELS: CASE STUDY ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Link to the article :

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/27316319>

This study by Scott E. Henke, David B. Wester, and Cord B. Eversole explores how holiday lights act as a seasonal source of light pollution and create an ecological trap for eastern fox squirrels.

Conducted at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, researchers observed that the presence of holiday lights extended the squirrels' foraging behavior by nearly four hours after sunset, making them more vulnerable to predators such as feral cats and owls.

The study documented a seven-fold increase in squirrel mortality during the holiday lighting period. The paper emphasizes the need for public awareness regarding the ecological consequences of artificial lighting on wildlife..



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