Artificial lights obscure the natural moonlight, making it hard for insects to find their way. Light bulbs appear brighter and radiate their light in multiple directions. Once an insect flies close enough to a light bulb, it attempts to navigate by way of the artificial light, rather than the moon. Since the light bulb radiates light on all sides, the insect simply cannot keep the light source at a constant angle, as it does with the moon. It attempts to navigate a straight path but ends up caught in an endless spiral dance around the bulb. Is Light Pollution Killing Insects? Some scientists believe it is.

Abstract

At Fair Isle Bird Observatory we use an assortment of methods for catching birds to ring. The majority of our catch each year are either passerines trapped in permanent Heligoland traps, small wire traps and mist-nets, or Fulmars, Shags, auks and gulls, ringed on the cliffs. Since 1959 we have been catching a variety of species by the use of artificial light at night. We have been particularly interested in those species which do not usually enter our normal traps, including wildfowl, waders and wintering gulls. We have so far caught and ringed by the use of artificial light about 630 birds of 51 species. In 1965, we caught 166 birds of 28 species by this method alone.

Full Text:

PDF

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.