The Publication Challenge
Richard B. Primack, Biological Conservation

- Publishing in international, peer-reviewed journals is important for your research and your career.

- However, acceptance rates at leading journals are low. Acceptance rate is about 20% overall at BC.

- How can you improve your possibility of acceptance?
Common Reasons for Rejection

- Not of interest to readers of *Biological Conservation* – (wrong journal)
- Not novel enough – (just another example)
- Small sample size (not enough samples or years)
- Weak presentation – especially writing, but also statistics and figures (unclear)
- Poor literature review (out of date)
Improving Your Odds

- **Good Science:**
  - Design your study well. If possible, replicate samples and years. Get advice before you start.
  - Use the correct statistical analyses; get advice if necessary.
  - Present reasonable conclusions.

Credit: Richard Primack
Good Presentation

- Write clearly, using good grammar.
- Write a good cover letter and abstract that convey your key points.
- Design clear figures that tell your story.
- Follow the journal’s guide to authors; use recent issues of the journal as guides for style.

Credit: Figure from Cabrera-Guzmán et al. 2012. Biological Conservation
Getting Good Advice

- Include co-authors who will improve the research and paper.
- Contact journal editor to make sure paper is a good fit.
- Ask colleagues to review the paper.
- Get help from English-speakers (sometimes you may need to pay for help)
- Don’t get discouraged!

Credit: Wayne MacPhail