**Toward reassessing data‐deficient species**

Bland LM, Bielby J, Kearney S, Orme CD, Watson JE, **Collen B**. (2017) *Conservation biology* 31: 531-539

*Toward reassessing data deficient species* was published by *Conservation Biology* in 2017 and represents the culmination of my PhD work with Ben Collen. Ben was my supervisor at the Institute of Zoology from 2010 to 2014 and this paper constitutes a mash-up of my PhD introduction and conclusion, thereby summarizing a few years of hard work and thinking.

The paper got a difficult time in review (we had to face some angry editor comments), as it is an opinion piece based on new data but not quite a research paper. The publication process is a harrowing one, especially for a PhD student, but Ben was always there to provide clever reviewer rebuttals and plenty of encouragement. Ben and I went on to write a correspondence for *Nature* entitled *Species loss: lack of data leaves a gap*, so our ideas did end up being successful.

I have wonderful memories of my PhD time with Ben and Jon Bielby. There is nothing quite like being supervised by two best friends – they felt like two older brothers!

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