

# DETROIT NEWS

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## Bats return to Puerto Rico

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Puerto Rico's rain-forest bats, which make up three-fourths of the island's mammals, have returned to population levels that existed before Hurricane Hugo flattened the forests in 1989, according to Michael Gannon, assistant biology professor at Penn State's Altoona campus. Gannon and co-researcher Michael Willig of Texas Tech said the bats are particularly important to Puerto Rico's rain forest because they help spread native plants — all the more critical after the hurricane.

The findings are reported in the June issue of the journal *Biotropica*.