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Bats bounce back

It has taken some five years, but the bats are finally back in Puerto Rico, Penn State University scientists report.

When Hurricane Hugo struck the Caribbean National Forest in the fall of 1989, it was tremendously disruptive to the area's wildlife, especially the bats, said biologist Michael Gannon. Hardest hit was the red fig-eating bat, to about 30 percent of normal.

While many bat species suffered serious decline in Hugo's wake, some prospered. "The greater Antillean long-tongued bat appeared positively affected by Hugo," he said. "This relative increase was mostly due to a decrease in other dominant bat species."