

# Owen Hejna

Urban Wildlife Ecologist and Educator  
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Website · LinkedIn · GitHub

## Education

**B.S., Ecology** Graduated *cum laude*, May 2024  
Loyola University Chicago  
University Research: Laboratory of Bioinformatics, Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology, Urban Agriculture Program

## Professional Experience

**Community Science Coordinator** April – December 2025  
Lincoln Park Zoo, Urban Wildlife Institute, Chicago, IL

**Summer Research Intern** June – September 2024  
Lincoln Park Zoo, Urban Wildlife Institute, Chicago, IL

**DNA Barcoding of Neotropical Fishes Intern** June – August 2023  
The Field Museum, Chicago, IL

**Shoreline Maintenance Technician** June – August 2022  
Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL

## Professional Affiliations

**Chicago Ornithological Society** Since November 2025  
Member

**Urban Rivers** Since June 2025  
Educator

**National Society of Collegiate Scholars** 2020 – 2024  
Member

## Scientific Articles

**Planet Forward** Published October 2025  
Chicago's people-powered Bat Tracker: Citizen scientists seek a different bat signal

## Attended Conferences

**Urban Wildlife Information Network Summit** September 2025

## Certifications

**Acoustic Bat Call Identification** Issued May 2025  
Vesper Bat Detection Services

**Mandated Reporter** Issued May 2025  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

## Educational Programs

**West Ridge Nature Park 10th Anniversary Fest**  
Environmental Educator (bats)

September 2025

**Bat Tracker Big Sit**  
Event Programmer and Lead

July 2025