

Owen Hejna

Urban Wildlife Ecologist and Educator
Chicago, IL · ohejna@outlook.com
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