

Owen Hejna

Ecologist and Educator

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Website · LinkedIn · GitHub

Education

B.S., Ecology Loyola University Chicago University Research: Laboratory of Bioinformatics, Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology, Urban Agriculture Program	Graduated <i>cum laude</i> , May 2024
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Professional Experience

Community Science Coordinator Urban Wildlife Institute at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL	April – December 2025
Summer Research Intern Urban Wildlife Institute at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL	June – September 2024
DNA Barcoding of Neotropical Fishes Intern The Field Museum, Chicago, IL	June – August 2023
Shoreline Maintenance Technician Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL	June – August 2022

Professional Affiliations

Chicago Ornithological Society Member	Since November 2025
Urban Rivers Educator	Since June 2025
National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member	2020 – 2024

Scientific Articles

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

Urban Wildlife Information Network Summit	September 2025
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Certifications

Acoustic Bat Call Identification Vesper Bat Detection Services	Issued May 2025
Mandated Reporter Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	Issued May 2025

Educational Programs

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

September 2025

Bat Tracker Big Sit
Event Programmer and Lead

July 2025