

Owen Hejna

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

Secretive Marshbird Coordinator Since February 2026
Indiana Audubon Society, Independent Contractor Role

Program Instructor II Since February 2026
Evanston Ecology Center, Evanston, IL

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

Summer Research Intern June – September 2024
Urban Wildlife Institute at Lincoln Park Zoo, 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

Calumet Conservation Committee (part of COS) Since March 2026
Member

Illinois Bat Working Group Since March 2026
Member

Chicago Ornithological Society (COS) 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

Midwest Bat Working Group Annual Meeting	April 2026
Urban Wildlife Information Network Summit	September 2025
Midwest Beaver Summit	August 2024

Certifications

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