

Research Scientist (Early-Career)

We are inviting applications for an early-career research scientist in the Biology Department at the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. The research scientist will develop and engage in original research projects focusing on conservation of imperiled wildlife and their ecosystems in Northeastern Illinois, or the Midwest/Great Lakes region. They will advance knowledge for the persistence of species within their taxonomic focus area within regional ecosystems. To support the Academy's focal areas, researchers engaged in conservation within the fields of herpetology, entomology, malacology, invasive species ecology, or other aspects of restoration ecology and wildlife conservation, are strongly encouraged to apply.

The research scientist will contribute to our research program focused on applied conservation, reintroduction, habitat management, and monitoring needs of regionally imperiled wildlife, or local ecosystems, working in coordination with land management agencies. The research scientist will prepare and publish original research in peer-reviewed journals, participate in professional society meetings, regional research and conservation meetings, panels, and forums.

If the researcher's work entails a headstarting or captive rearing component, they may coordinate with our Living Collections team to develop care protocols and research questions related to these conservation approaches, such as inquiries into wildlife health and behavior. The research scientist may collaborate on existing community science program offerings, or develop new areas of engagement in participatory science around the conservation of regional biodiversity.

The research scientist will collaborate with the Advancement Department to identify funding opportunities, and prepare grant proposals to support conservation research. They will determine and manage their research project budgets, and be responsible for purchasing project supplies. The research scientist will be responsible for recruitment, training, supervision, and scheduling of any seasonal field research personnel associated with their grant and contract work.

The researcher may collaborate with the Collections Department to provide specimen identification support for research requests in their taxonomic area and utilize the scientific collections and archives to inform research. The researcher is encouraged to contribute to the Academy's collections through submission of salvaged specimens or of other specimens collected under permitted research.

The research scientist will work cross-departmentally to provide content expertise for the development of museum exhibits, educational programs and workshops, and informal museum programming or events. The research scientist will also provide training and professional development opportunities to members of the Biology Department and Education Department, in their area of expertise (e.g. teaching sampling techniques, field site visits, presentation of study results).

The research scientist will serve as a museum representative of their research, and general ecological information, to print, broadcast, and online media, and provide presentations on a range of relevant topics to diverse audiences.

The research scientist may pursue partnerships or affiliations with regional universities for teaching relevant courses, or for advising/co-advising undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral associates.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and conduct original research on select aspects of conservation of regional wildlife in Northeastern Illinois/the Midwest/the Great Lakes region
- Independently determine and manage long-term conservation research projects, establish project timelines, and provide regular deliverables (e.g. contract or grant reports, publications), building partnerships with external collaborators when possible
- Work closely with the VP of Conservation Research and other Biology Department members (e.g. Associate Curator of Entomology, Manager of Living Collections, Manager of Horticulture), to design, implement and deliver collaborative research projects
- Work with the VP of Conservation Research to update the Department's Conservation Research Plan to reflect the researcher's projects and identify new areas of inquiry
- Work with the Advancement Department to pursue funding sources to support research. Determine and manage budgets for the researcher's projects, coordinating with the Finance Department on invoices, expense reports, and budget projections for research projects

- Purchase materials and supplies necessary for research projects
- Prepare grant reports in coordination with the Advancement and Finance Departments
- Prepare all necessary permit reports for the researcher's projects (e.g. Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species Permits, Illinois Scientific Research Permits, Illinois Nature Preserves Special Use Permits).
- Recruit, train, and supervise seasonal support staff (e.g field technicians) or grant-supported staff for research projects as external funding permits
- Coordinate the development of protocols for conservation projects with the Manager of Living Collections or the Manager of Horticulture as needed.
- Be an active presence in the conservation and ecological restoration communities.
- Present research findings through publication and presentation, including peer-reviewed journals, books, and proceedings of professional meetings.
- Serve as a content expert for the development of museum exhibits, educational programming, and informal museum programming.

Requirements:

Qualified applicants must have a Ph.D. or be within 4 months of defending their dissertation.

Prior experience should include: independently managing research projects, providing deliverables to funders, managing project budgets, grant-writing, production of peer-reviewed publications, delivery of scientific presentations and talks for general audiences, conducting statistical analyses, and obtaining scientific research permits for their research.

Other desired skills include:

Teaching experience at the college or high school level, or with adult learners

To Apply: Applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, contact information for three references, a representative publication (or in prep manuscript if applicable), and a research statement outlining the scope of their work and future directions of interest to:

hr-bioresearcher@naturemuseum.org

The interview process will include virtual/in-person interviews and a research presentation to Biology and Collections department staff, along with staff members from other departments (Education, Exhibits, Guest Engagement, Advancement) as availability permits.

Salary range: \$65,000-\$70,000

Benefits:

- Comprehensive Medical, Dental + Vision Plans
- Life + Disability Benefits
- EAP + Work/Life Program Services
- 401(k) Savings Plan
- Paid Time Off
- Paid Sick Leave

No phone calls please. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

About Us

For 166 years, The Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum ('Nature Museum') has been connecting Chicagoans to nature and science. As a leader in the field of scientific research, education and community programming, Nature Museum's mission is to create a positive relationship between people and nature through collaboration, education, research and collections, exhibitions and public forums to grow the region's urban connection to the world of nature and science. The Nature Museum believes that nature and

science should and can be accessible to everyone and seeks to be a spark that ignites and fosters a sense of wonder for nature, an understanding of science and protection of the natural world.

Founded in 1857, the Chicago Academy of Sciences is Chicago's oldest museum and one of America's oldest scientific institutions. Created by members seeking to understand the natural world through methodical exploration and study, the Chicago Academy of Sciences became the first private scientific museum founded in the city of Chicago. When the Academy opened its doors to the public in 1869, the institution's focus expanded to that of a community museum with the goal of welcoming and engaging Chicago residents and visitors. The scientific collections that have been curated and preserved through the Chicago Academy of Sciences have been used to help define human understanding of nature, ecology and the diversity of life in the United States. They are key resources in allowing the scientific community to interpret our present place in history as well as anticipate future conditions.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all areas of the organization. We strongly encourage applications from people of color and members of underrepresented groups.

Applicants must be authorized to work for any employer in the US. We are unable to sponsor or take over sponsorship of employment Visa at this time.