

PROCLAMATION



State of Florida
Collier County
City of Marco Island

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE OWL WATCH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Owl Watch Program, organized by Audubon of the Western Everglades, was established in 2016 to protect and monitor the burrowing owl population and gopher tortoises on Marco Island; and

WHEREAS, burrowing owls, a state threatened species, are an iconic and cherished part of Marco Island's unique natural environment, contributing to the ecological balance and character of the Marco Island community; and

WHEREAS, for the past ten years, dedicated volunteers of the Owl Watch Program have given generously of their time, energy, and passion to serve as stewards of the island's wildlife through monitoring, education, and conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers, working in close coordination with trained field biologists and conservation experts, have helped ensure the protection of burrowing owl habitats and have advanced Marco Island as a model for citizen science and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Owl Watch Program has fostered greater public awareness of the overall importance of protecting wildlife, including the need to preserve natural habitats and safeguard food sources from harmful practices such as rodenticide use; and

WHEREAS, the Marco Island City Council formally recognizes the contributions of the Owl Watch volunteers and expresses its gratitude to the individuals who made a lasting impact on the community and its environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Marco Island, Florida, that 2026 is hereby recognized as the Celebration of 10 Years of Owl Watch, and that the City Council honors the dedicated volunteers whose service has made the program a success.

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 20th day of April, 2026.

Darrin Palumbo, Chairman

ATTEST

Joan Taylor, City Clerk