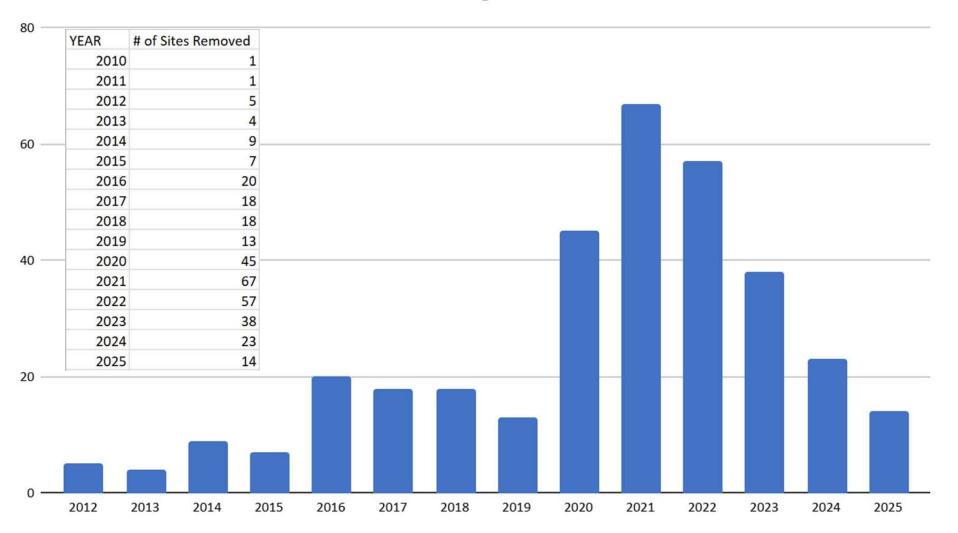
## Burrowing Owl Safe Harbor Program-Starter Burrows



Brittany Piersma Wildlife Biologist Audubon Western Everglades

#### Marco Island-Burrowing Owl Sites Removed



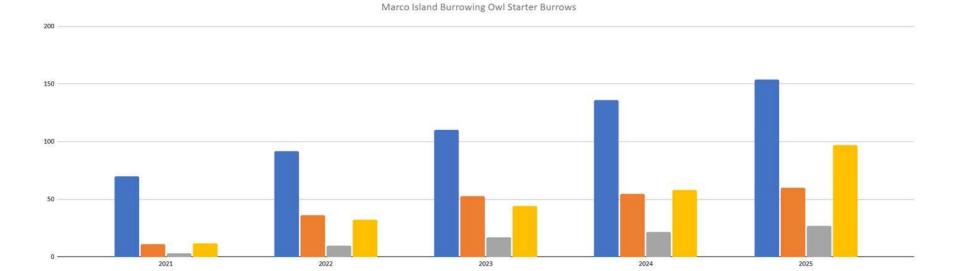
### **Safe Harbor Program**

- Agreement between a willing resident, the City of Marco Island, FWC, and AWE.
- Starter burrows dug in front yards in a small area free of dense vegetation.
- No use of rat poison or outdoor cats.
- Safe Harbor ensures burrow can be removed at any time under a free permit pending no current nesting activity.
- City pays \$250 to owners that attract owls and that dig 18inches into a burrow.
- One of a kind program with much success!



## 2021-2025 Starter Burrow Data

MARCO STARTERS				
YEAR	STARTER SITES	EXCAVATED	PAIRS	FLEDGED CHICKS
2021	70	11	3	12
2022	92	36	10	32
2023	110	53	17	44
2024	136	55	22	58
2025	154	60	27	97



STARTER SITES EXCAVATED PAIRS FLEDGED CHICKS

#### 2025 Starter Burrow Details

#### <u> Marco Island</u>

Total Starters: 154

Total Excavated: 60

Total Remained Occupied: 30

Total Pairs: 27

Total Nests: 24

Total Fledged Chicks: 97



• 3 Starters in Fiddlers, 4 starters in Isles of Capri, 5 starters in Esplande, and 1 starter in Naples.

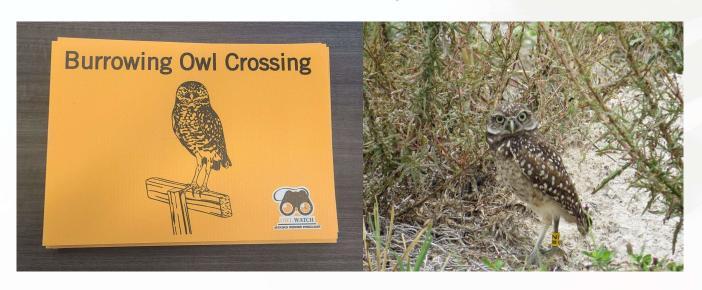
Thank you to the starter burrow team!

### **2024-2025** Recipients

- Becky Krisko
- Todd & Tamara Goehler
- Leanne Richards
- Chris Byrne
- Mike Fields
- Janet Brooks
- Nancy Lee Willer
- John Grobman
- Wayne & Stephanie Lewald
- Darid Jonah
- John Sidelko
- Pam Carey
- Susan Revall



# Thank you!



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