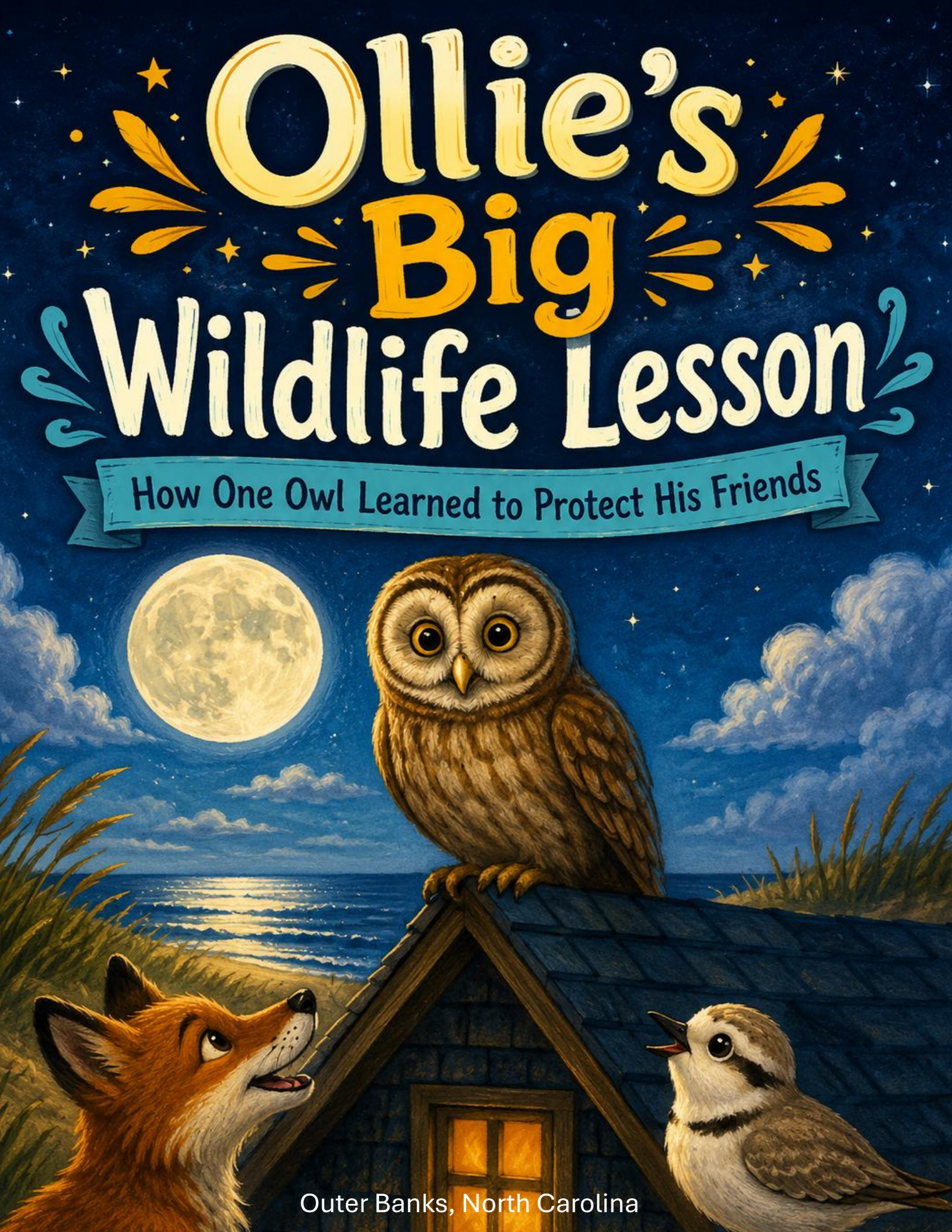
Ollie's Big Wildlife Lesson

How One Owl Learned to Protect His Friends



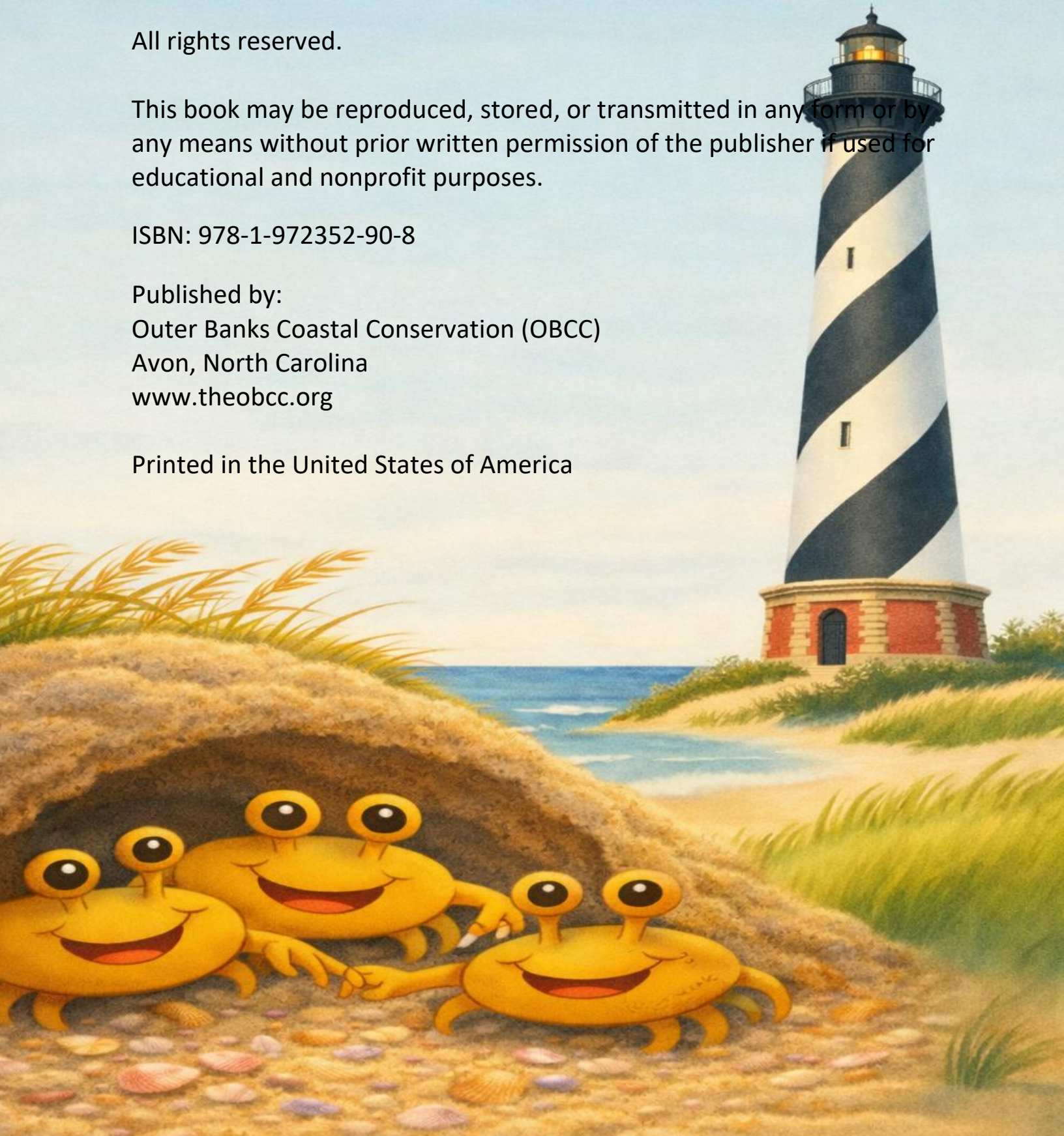
Outer Banks, North Carolina

Ollie’s Big Wildlife Lesson: How One Owl Learned to Protect His Friends

ISBN: 978-1-972352-90-8

Published by:
Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC)
Avon, North Carolina
www.theobcc.org

Printed in the United States of America

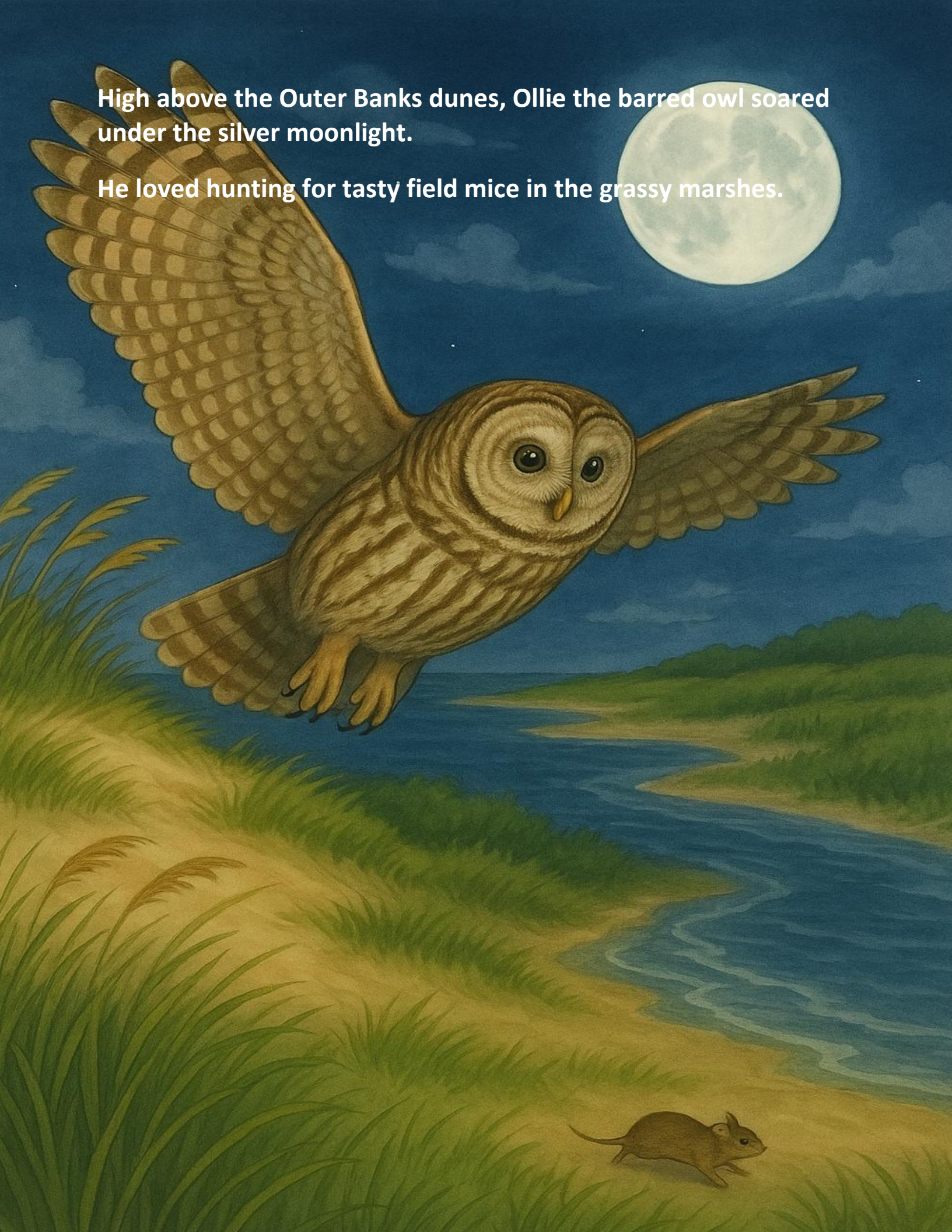


About This Book

This storybook was created by the Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through outreach, education, and conservation efforts.

We believe that small stories can spark big change. That is why we have made this book available as a free resource for parents, teachers, and community members.

To learn more, access additional resources at: www.theobcc.org.



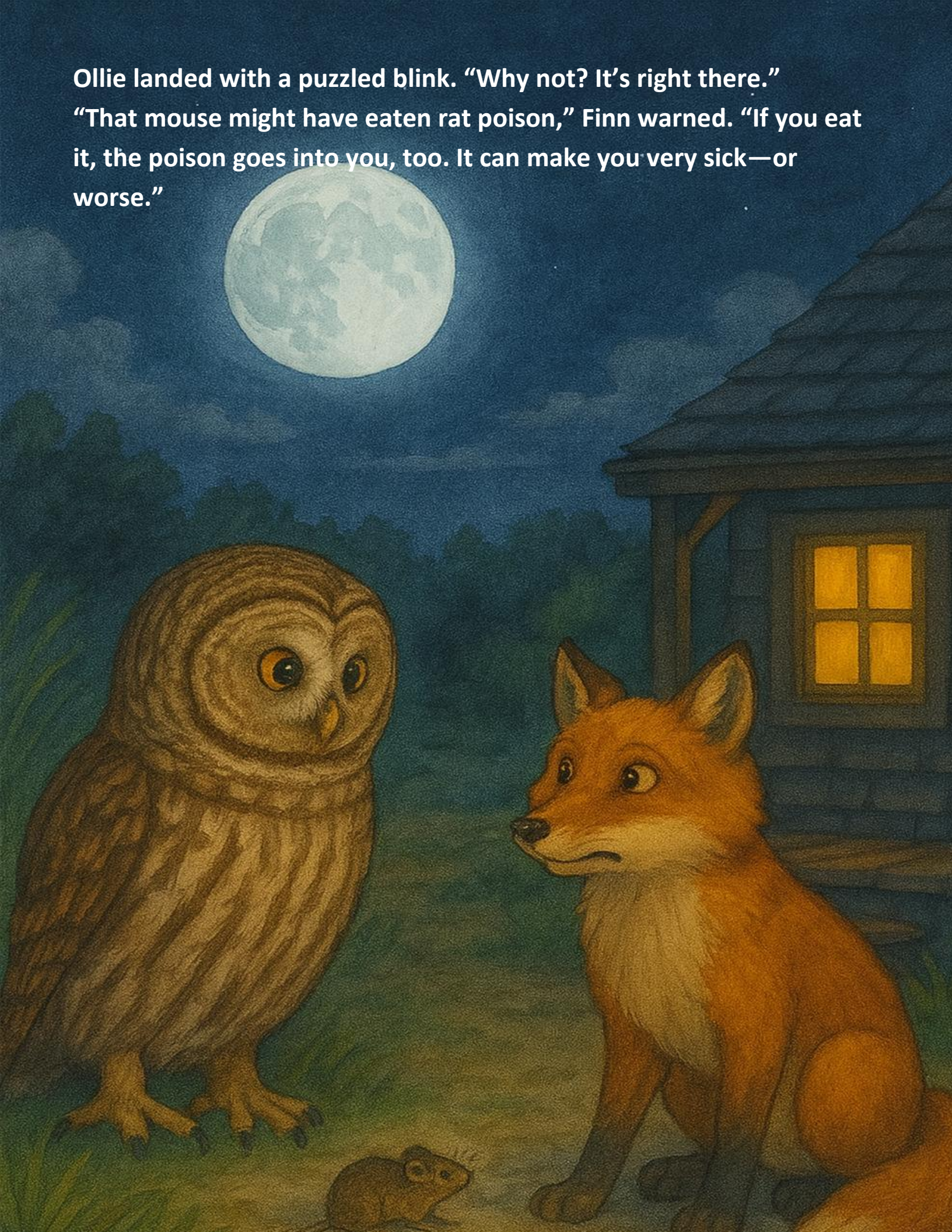
High above the Outer Banks dunes, Ollie the barred owl soared under the silver moonlight.

He loved hunting for tasty field mice in the grassy marshes.

One night, he spotted an easy catch—a mouse moving slowly near a cottage porch.

“Perfect midnight snack,” Ollie hooted.


But just as he swooped, his friend Finn the fox called out, “Ollie! Don’t eat that one!”



Ollie landed with a puzzled blink. “Why not? It’s right there.”
“That mouse might have eaten rat poison,” Finn warned. “If you eat it, the poison goes into you, too. It can make you very sick—or worse.”

Ollie’s feathers ruffled. “But rat poison is for rats and mice… why would it hurt me?”

Finn explained, “Rat poison doesn’t stop working when the rat dies. Any animal that eats the poisoned animal—hawks, owls, foxes, even pets—can be harmed.”

Their friend Piper the piping plover hopped over. “And it’s not just you two! Poison can hurt crabs, turtles, and even scavenger birds if it gets into the environment.”

Ollie’s eyes grew wide. “So what can people do instead?”


Finn began to list safer ways:
• “Close up small holes so mice can’t get inside.”
• “Store food in strong, sealed containers.”
• “Clean up crumbs and trash so rodents won’t come looking for snacks.”
• Close up small holes so mice can't get inside.
• Store food in strong, sealed containers.
• Clean up crumbs and trash so rodents won't come looking for snacks.

Piper added, “And if trapping is needed, use snap traps or live traps—no poison! Or call pest control experts who use wildlife-safe methods.”

Ollie gave a firm nod. “If people choose safer ways, wildlife stays healthy, and the Outer Banks stays wild and beautiful.”

From that night on, Ollie watched over the dunes—not just to hunt, but to share his big warning:
“No poison, more life!”

Did You Know?

Rat poison is bad. It makes animals sick,

Owls, foxes, and pets –

It harms them quick!

Instead, use traps

Close holes up right

And keep food sealed.

Safe choices mean wildlife

Can thrive

Let’s help keep our wild friends alive!

References

Isackson, B. (2024). *Rodenticide toxicity.* In *StatPearls*. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK554428/ NCBI

National Pesticide Information Center. (n.d.). *Rodenticides: fact sheet.* Oregon State University. https://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/rodenticides.html National Pesticide Information Center

United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). *Rodent control pesticide safety review.* https://www.epa.gov/rodenticides/rodent-control-pesticide-safety-review Environmental Protection Agency

Wood, T. (2018, January 23). Pot, rat poison and wildlife don't mix. UC Davis One Health Institute. https://www.ucdavis.edu/one-health/pot-rat-poison-and-wildlife-dont-mix/ UC Davis

Jaramillo-Q., M. A., Delgado-V., C. A., & Arias-Alzate, A. (2024). Use of anticoagulant rodenticides: a silent threat to biodiversity in a city of Northern Colombian Andes. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, *12*, 1424047. https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2024.1424047 Frontiers

Wildlife Health Australia. (2023, February). *Rodenticide toxicity in Australian wildlife: fact sheet.* https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Portals/0/ResourceCentre/FactSheets/Multiple/Rodenticide_Toxicity_in_Australian_Wildlife.pdf Wildlife Health Australia

Center for Biological Diversity. (n.d.). *Safe rodent control.* https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/Safe-Rodent-Control/ Center for Biological Diversity

Ollie's Big Wildlife Lesson: How One Owl Learned to Protect His Friends

Ollie the owl loves hunting mice in the Outer Banks marshes. One night, his friends Finn the fox and Piper the piping plover warn him that a mouse may have eaten rat poison. They explain that poisoned rodents can harm owls, foxes, pets, and other wildlife. Ollie learns that safer rodent-control methods—like sealing food, cleaning up crumbs, closing holes, and using traps instead of poison—help protect animals and keep the Outer Banks healthy and wild.

About the Publisher

Outer Banks Coastal Conservation (OBCC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the Outer Banks of North Carolina through education, outreach, and conservation initiatives.

Learn more and download free educational resources at: www.theobcc.org.

OBCC
OUTER BANKS COASTAL CONSERVATION
EDUCATE · PROTECT · PRESERVE

9781972352908
ISBN 978-1-972352-90-8