

The Red-tailed Hawk

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There are many awesome species of birds in Franklin Township. One of my favorite birds in Franklin Township is the red-tailed hawk. They look very cool when they soar above and fly. The colors on their body are very fascinating. They are brown and beige and they really do have a reddish-colored tail!

Red-tailed hawks can be found in many places. They can be seen in trees along the sides of the road looking for dead animals, in our backyard looking to eat one of our chickens, and on the Capoolong Creek trail that is behind our house. They have very good vision. A red-tailed hawk can see a mouse from 100 feet in the air, so they can obviously see a chicken from that high.

My dad's father, Pop, loved nature and especially red-tailed hawks. He would always point them out to everyone when he saw one. Although he died before I was born, our whole family thinks of him when we see a red-tailed hawk. My grandma Nan has some stories of special times when she has seen a hawk that remind her of Pop.

One of my favorite stories that happened last year took place at Deep Run where my dad played baseball when he was young. Pop also had been placed in the hall of fame there. During the final game of the weekend tournament, red-tailed hawk flew by very low right over the field. My dad was so surprised and turned and asked my mom and Nan if they saw it. They had seen it, too. Then the red-tailed hawk watched the rest of the game in a tree behind home plate. We won that game and got the trophies for winning the tournament. This moment was special to our family because we felt like Pop was there with us.

I really love living in this rural area in Franklin Township, NJ. There are so many beautiful animals that we can look at and observe every day. It makes me feel very happy to be able to appreciate nature all the time. I am thankful for nature's beauty!