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5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Second Place  
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#### RURAL AWARENESS ESSAY

There are many types of wildlife in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County, including deer, coyotes, geese, bears and more. I can see them every day when I look in my backyard and in my community. I have had experiences with a baby deer in my bush, geese chasing me and my family, and coyotes making loud howling noises.

My favorite experience with wildlife was when I found a baby deer under the bush in my yard. I was riding my bike around my house when I saw the baby deer hiding under a bush. The baby deer was probably waiting for his/her mom while she looked for food. The baby deer was very little and it was brown with white spots and blended in with the bush. After I saw the baby deer, I came back a couple hours later and it was gone. The momma deer probably came back to take it somewhere safe. Seeing a baby deer calm and still, not running away from me, was such a cool experience.

My next experience was with coyotes howling at night. I was watching TV at night when I heard this loud noise right outside the window. I thought it was someone screaming, but it was actually coyotes howling. It scared me a little at first but when I found out it was just coyotes, I was fine. I, sadly, couldn't see the coyotes but I heard them very well. I don't like coyotes but they are a pretty cool animal to hear in Franklin Township.

My third experience was with geese chasing me and my family. We were at a pond and we saw some geese, so we decided to get a little closer to see them better. The geese started flying toward us, so my mom took the stroller and my brother and we ran as fast as we could to the car. The geese kept flying and chasing us. Luckily, we got away from the geese, but that was a scary experience in Franklin Township.

Franklin Township has very interesting wildlife that I encounter every day. I am lucky to live here and be able to see these animals and the cool things they do. My experiences with Franklin Township wildlife are fun to tell people about – especially if they do not live here too.