

Dr. Birder

**Drawing conclusions: What bird am I?**

You play the role of Dr. Birder. Based on the birdwatcher's description, and the three given possibilities, draw the correct conclusion and identify the bird.

**Birdwatcher's Description:**

Dear Dr. Birder,

June 26, 2018

I was hoping you could help me identify this bird. I was stopped along the highway and I saw this grayish bird on a fence. It was gray above and white below with a dark mask or stripe over its eye. It had a heavy, hooked bill, which I thought was strange for a bird that was only the size of a robin. It had white wing patches when it flew. It landed on the "Welcome to Florida" sign!

**Mockingbird** – The familiar and highly vocal mockingbird is common in suburban neighborhoods, urban areas, parks, and open country throughout most of America. It is mostly gray above and white below. It has conspicuous white wing patches that show in flight. The mockingbird has a long tail with white edges. It is about ten inches in length, or, about the size of a robin.

**Loggerhead Shrike** – The loggerhead shrike is found in open country throughout much of the southern, central, and western United States. It is often seen on telephone wires or barbed-wire fences. It has a grey head and back and is white underneath. It has a thick black "mask" and black wings. Its white wing patches show in flight. Shrikes have thick, hooked black bills. It is similar in size to the mockingbird.

**Northern Shrike** – The northern shrike is found in open country with scattered trees. For most of the year, the northern shrike lives in central and northern Canada. Occasionally, a few individuals will be seen in winter in the northern United States. The northern shrike is similar to the loggerhead shrike, but has more white feathers above the black mask and is grayer or duskier underneath.

The bird is: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: The bird described is a Loggerhead Shrike

