

**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,

January 11, 2018

I need your help. I saw a kind of woodpecker at my feeder. It was only a little larger than the sparrows that visit. It was all black and white except for a small red patch on the back of its neck. I also noticed a long white stripe down the back. Its bill was noticeably short. It may have been small, but it sure was tough. It chased some of the sparrows and chickadees right off the feeder!

**Red-Bellied Woodpecker** – This robin-sized woodpecker is common year-round in the eastern and central United States. It is easily found in suburban yards with scattered trees, golf courses, parks, and light forests. It is somewhat misnamed. Male red-bellied woodpeckers have brilliant red caps and necks, are black and white on the wings and back, and mostly white on the belly rather than red! They are easily attracted o feeders.

**Hairy Woodpecker** – The hairy woodpecker is fairly common year-round throughout the United States, though less common than the smaller but similar downy woodpecker. Hairy woodpeckers are found in forested habitats. The male is black and white with a red patch on the back of the neck. It also has a long, white stripe down its back. It is similar in size to the red-bellied woodpecker.

**Downy Woodpecker** – The downy is probably America's most common woodpecker. It is found in a variety of habitats from neighborhoods and city parks to dense forests. The downy woodpecker is identical to the hairy woodpecker except it is about three inches smaller and has a much shorter bill. Downy woodpeckers are easily attracted to bird feeders, where they can be aggressive to other birds.

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

Answer: The bird described is a Downy Woodpecker

