



This photo shows a number of characteristics to narrow the species to *Gavia arctica*, and even the probability of *viridigularis*:

FLANKS. Most importantly, note the white flanks flared up to the sides of the rump. Birch and C.-T. Lee, p. 110 & 111: "The best field mark in all plumages is the color pattern of the rear portion of the flank. Pacific Loons have entirely dark flanks (Figures 4 and 5); they lack Arctic Loon's conspicuous white rear flank patch. In the field, the flank patches on Arctic Loons appear as conspicuous posterior white patches that 'flare' to a greater extent above the waterline than in Pacific Loons (Figure 1-3....).... Pacific Loons can show obvious white above the waterline if they are swimming 'high' or partly rolling over as if to preen, but they never show the shape and extent of white that Arctics display (Dunn and Rose 1992). The key is to note whether the white on the flanks extends up to the sides of the rump, indicating Arctic Loon.

BILL. Note the length and heft of the bill. I have never seen bill on a Pacific or photo of a Pacific Loon that is this large. Pacifics having a relatively dainty bill. Birch and C.-T. Lee, p. 109: "In the field, Arctic Loons show a larger and thicker bill than Pacific Loons (Figures 1,2,4, and 5). Measurements of specimens... on Arctic Loons, the culmen averages longer...25 percent, and the bill base is consistently proportionately thicker than in Pacific Loons." The subspecies *viridigularis* is most likely in this location, and the large bill would be consistent with that. Birch and C.-T. Lee, p. 108: "The subspecies *viridigularis* averages larger and longer-billed than the nominate subspecies...."

NECK STRIPES. The appearance and location of the neck stripes narrow the loon species possibilities to Arctic and Pacific. Their visibility indicates, as do other coloration, that the bird is an adult that has not completed its molt to basic. I am unable to conclude from looking at these neck stripes whether they are any more characteristic of Arctic or Pacific.



Yet another example of the white flanks, neck stripes, but also the uptilted head and bill, and the very long neck (see note on next photo).