

Arctic Loon

Gavia arctica

Keys to Identification

Appearance

- Medium-sized loon.
- Straight, stout bill.
- White-spotted black back.
- White flanks visible above water while swimming.
- Head and nape are gray in breeding plumage.
- Neck has bold black and white stripes on sides (breeding plumage).

Cool Facts

- The Arctic Loon is also known as the Black-throated Diver.
- According to old stories, “the devil himself created the Black-throated Diver. They said that the devil had forgotten to give the bird its feet, and in his anger he threw the legs after the bird.”
- They sit low in the water and dive with ease. On land they are clumsy, barely able to walk with their legs so far back on their bodies.

