

# Birds of Little Sachigo Lake and Thorne-Sachigo Rivers, Ontario

by  
John M.C. Peterson

## Introduction

A field party of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project composed of Theodore Mack, Daniel Nickerson, Timothy Stiles and the author spent 14–24 June 1985 at Little Sachigo Lake, Kenora District and 25 June–4 July 1985 along the Thorne and Sachigo Rivers beginning at an unnamed lake (“Bald Eagle Lake”, see Figure 1). The purpose of the expedition was to gather data from the two 100 x 100 km Atlas blocks (Blocks WL and XL) in northern Ontario that had received no previous coverage. Data were also obtained from a third block (Block WK) at Little Sachigo Lake.

## Location

Little Sachigo Lake is located near 54°20'N latitude and 92°10'W longitude within 40 km of the Manitoba border, about 320 km from Hudson Bay, and 150 km west of Big Trout Lake (Figure 1). The lake is about 12 km wide, eight km across, and is dotted with islands (many more than the 18

that show on the best 1:250,000 map available). Elevation is about 255 m. The stretch of the Thorne-Sachigo Rivers explored is near 55°N latitude, between 90° and 91°W longitude, and covers a distance of about 50 air km, with elevations dropping from 160 m to 140 m. The area is 120–140 km NNW of Big Trout Lake, and about 200 km south of Hudson Bay. It is estimated that the party canoed over 80 km at Little Sachigo and another 80 km or more along the two rivers and its tributaries.

## Relief

This is a generally flat land of winding rivers, irregular lakes, and muskeg. An area shown on the topographical maps, and henceforth referred to as Prominent Ridge, west of Little Sachigo Lake, hardly rises more than 30 m above the lake, and is forested with a mixture of balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*).

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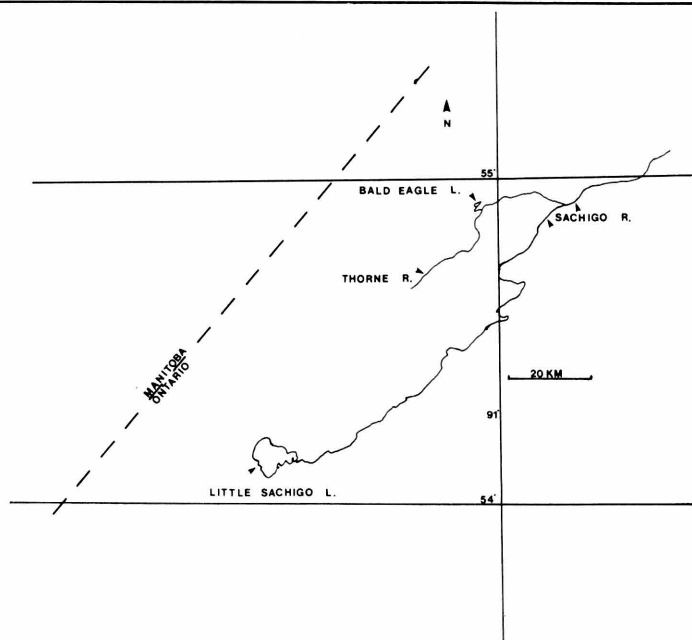


Figure 1. Map showing the two study areas: Little Sachigo Lake and Thorne-Sachigo Rivers.

### Drainage

Little Sachigo Lake receives water from Sachigo Lake to the south via the Sachigo River, and from smaller tributaries. Both the Thorne and Sachigo Rivers join the Severn River flowing into Hudson Bay. The rivers trend southwest-northeast, flowing down off the Shield to the Bay. Little Sachigo Lake is fairly silty due to clay runoff entering the lake, although the south-flowing streams on the north shore are clear. The Thorne River is clear, but the Sachigo is silty, in spite of contributions from the Thorne and other clear side tributaries.

### Climate

The early summer of 1985 was unusually wet, with a profound adverse impact upon nesting birds.

Of the 21 days spent in the field, it rained on at least six. Rain began the night of 20 June and continued without stop until 23 June. The storm accompanied by high winds from the northwest blew down trees around Little Sachigo Lake. On several other days strong winds and rains struck with little warning. The weather station at Big Trout Lake reported that during the first week of June there was snowfall equivalent to 5 cm of rain. The 20-23 June storm produced an additional 8 cm of rainfall, bringing the level of Big Trout Lake up another 30 cm. By 24 June, the beach at Camp 1 was mostly gone, and tents were moved into the spruce forest above the clay bank. On 27 June the Thorne was still in high flood stage, the current flowing back into the

spruce forest on both sides, no banks visible. Even by 4 July, when the mud residue on trees and shrubs showed that the Sachigo had dropped 1.25 m since the last rain a week previously, the river was still flowing over the tops of bankside willows and bushes. The personnel at the weather station felt that this should be the wettest June on record for northern Ontario and western Manitoba. The effect upon nesting birds, in the opinion of all four experienced observers, was devastating. Of 87 species recorded in Atlas Block XL at Little Sachigo Lake over 137 hours between 14-25 June, 27 (31%) were Confirmed. This low percentage actually dropped in Block XL along the Thorne-Sachigo Rivers. Of the 80 species recorded over a period of 130 hours between 25 June and 4 July, only 13 (16%) were Confirmed.

#### Areas Investigated

From Camps 1-4, the shoreline of Little Sachigo Lake from the southeast outlet around the north shore to Prominent Ridge in the west was investigated. Also explored were an unnamed lake to the south in Atlas square 15WK59, Warnock Lake to the north, an unnamed lake west of Warnock in 15WL50, and streams leading to these lakes. The surrounding forests, muskegs, bogs, and side channels were intensively investigated, as were all islands on the north (Block WL) side of the lake.

Camp 5 provided a base for exploring the entirety of the unnamed lake ("Bald Eagle

Lake") south of South Wanitawagao Creek. From the canoes and Camps 6-11, the Thorne and Sachigo Rivers received thorough coverage. For most of the river trip bankside vegetation was under the floodwaters and the banks were lined with flooded tall white spruce (*Picea glauca*). Near the river were forests of black spruce (*Picea mariana*), jack pine, and some white birch-balsam poplar, with fairly dense muskeg beyond. A large area of old burn lay behind Camp 9 at the Thorne-Sachigo confluence, where Common Nighthawks were particularly conspicuous. About a dozen side streams were also explored, some for several miles upstream by canoe and on foot.

#### Habitats

There was a rich variety of habitats, and successional types within; the conifer and broad-leaved forests, open habitats, and wetlands. Except for the ruins of a trapper's cabin at Little Sachigo Lake, a trapper's tepee at Warnock Lake, and a new cabin along the Sachigo River, there was little artificial disturbance by man.

Black spruce is dominant around Little Sachigo Lake, with some mixture of white birch and balsam poplar on higher ground, especially around the small lake to the south of the outlet where Least Flycatcher and Ovenbird were Confirmed, along Prominent Ridge on the west shore, and several ridges on the north side. Spruce generally grades off into tamarack (*Larix laricina*) in lower, wetter areas, the latter species being

dominant in several bog and wetland locations. The lake provides open water, with islands ranging from piles of bare boulders, to brush vegetation, as well as those forested with conifers or mixed woods. The shoreline of Little Sachigo is mostly lined with forests, although there are edges of willows (*Salix* sp.) or marsh in places, and at the east end there is a narrow strip of sandy beach. Shallow marshes are found near the outlet and up several streams, with cover varying from dense woody shrubs and cattails to flooded sedge meadows and emergent buckbeans. Fens and bogs tend to blend into black spruce forest. Interestingly, dandelions were noted at several grassy streamside embankments used as campsites by our party, showing signs of previous use by Indians.

White spruce borders much of the Thorne River, except where jack pine takes up higher ground along the banks. Mixed with and dominant behind this curtain is black spruce. Black spruce also borders the lake where we landed in square 15XL28 ("Bald Eagle Lake"). Some mixed or pure stands of birch-poplar are found along the Thorne, becoming more frequent at lower elevations along the wider Sachigo River. The Sachigo is also bordered by a wider band of willow along its banks. Much of the muskeg behind the riverbanks was found to be fairly dense, only rarely opening up, most notably around the old burn near the confluence of the two rivers. During our visit much

of the edge habitat was under the high floodwaters that sometimes intruded back into the spruce forest. Ground cover was sphagnum of various species throughout the study areas, often flooded to a depth of a 0.3 m or more. Patches of lichens were generally found on drier ground with well-drained sandy soil. No ferns were observed. Many familiar plants were found to be much smaller than their counterparts to the south.

### **The Bird Fauna**

Avian records were obtained from a total of fifteen 10 km squares: two in block WK, three in block WL, and ten in block XL. The variety of breeding birds in this study area was extremely rich, with 105 species found (and several others undoubtedly present) around Little Sachigo Lake and along the Thorne-Sachigo Rivers. Variety was generally better near the lake (93 species) than on the rivers (80 species), although the latter yielded a dozen new species for the trip. A highlight was the discovery of Double-crested Cormorants nesting on Little Sachigo Lake. Large numbers of waterfowl took advantage of the expanses of open water at Little Sachigo, including all-male flocks of scaups, Common Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads. Common Loon, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup were Confirmed as breeding species at Little Sachigo, and another seven waterfowl species noted there. Canada Geese were

Confirmed several times at the Thorne, Green-winged Teal Confirmed on a beaver pond upstream from the river, and eight other species of waterfowl noted, including White-winged Scoters on "Bald Eagle Lake." Eight species of eagle and hawks were found, as well as four owls (plus Short-eared at Pickle Lake). Sandhill Cranes were found at four locations. Five shorebirds were regularly encountered, and Semipalmated Sandpiper found once, resting on an islet in Little Sachigo. Common Nighthawks were commonly encountered at seven locations. Woodpeckers were notably scarce, with only four species recorded and only Northern Flicker Confirmed; Three-toed Woodpecker was not recorded, but undoubtedly present. These aforementioned species, as well as passerines, are treated in detail on the systematic list which follows.

The sequence and nomenclature of birds' names follows that of the American Ornithologists' Union's *Checklist of North American Birds* (6th Edition).

### Acknowledgements

This expedition was made possible

by the support and advice of a number of farflung and helpful individuals and institutions. Mike Cadman, Atlas coordinator for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, was encouraging for more than two years. Thanks to his persistence and patience our plans finally became reality, and we're most appreciative. L.L. Bean, Inc., of Freeport, Maine, provided supplies, equipment, and the invaluable advice of their expert staff; they not only made our expedition possible, they made it safe. The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund helped defray expenses, while Austin Airways helped defray transportation costs and saw to it that four birders, two canoes, and 200 kg of gear moved north without delay. Big Trout Air Service, Ltd., did an outstanding job, and their pilots are to be commended for prompt and professional service. Thomas Terry of Voyageurs North provided sound advice and useful maps. Comfortable housing at Big Trout Lake was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. We especially thank the people of Big Trout Lake for their hospitality.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

**Common Loon.** Nest with two eggs on small pond halfway up stream to Warnock Lake 16 June; this was a mainland nest, placed on a low hummock. Pairs were noted at Little Sachigo Lake and at Bald Eagle Lake, where two pairs engaged in territorial displays 26 June. There was also a pair on Warnock Lake, but no nest could be found, perhaps because islands were flooded by our visit on 24 June. We suspect many loon nests failed.

**Double-crested Cormorant.** Pair east end of Little Sachigo Lake; nest with three eggs found 20 June on a rocky islet formed of boulders 1.6 km out from the west shore of Little Sachigo, 3 adults present, and Herring Gulls also nesting among the rocks. This appears to be the northernmost nesting record for Ontario.

**American Bittern.** Heard or seen several times, including a pair at Little Sachigo.

**Great Blue Heron.** Pair near Little Sachigo; also seen at Bald Eagle Lake near the Thorne in suitable habitat in the channel to the river.

**Canada Goose.** Small flock Little Sachigo Lake; several broods near and along the Thorne River, plus adults along the Sachigo.

**Green-winged Teal.** Found in suitable habitat at Little Sachigo Lake and a pair with ducklings found in a channel at a lake north of the lake 19 June; a vigorous distraction display was given on a beaver pond between Bald Eagle Lake and the Thorne 26 June.

**Mallard.** Hen with brood Little Sachigo 18 June, upstream from Little Sachigo a pair with brood June 20; also noted near Bald Eagle Lake.

**Blue-winged Teal.** Distraction display north of Little Sachigo, also found near outlet.

**American Wigeon.** Pairs were encountered at a number of locations on and around Little Sachigo Lake on several dates.

**Ring-necked Duck.** Nest with nine eggs 19 June on stream north of Little Sachigo; pair near Bald Eagle Lake.

**Greater Scaup.** Pairs seen at several places around Little Sachigo Lake and found at Bald Eagle Lake.

**Lesser Scaup.** Distraction display, pairs, Little Sachigo.

**White-winged Scoter.** At Bald Eagle Lake 26 June a lone male took off from the water and made several passes over a mated pair swimming together.

**Common Goldeneye.** Little Sachigo Lake seemed to be a gathering place for the males of several species of duck, including this bird, which appeared in flocks of up to 50 individuals. A mated pair was noted near the outlet of Little Sachigo Lake. Also seen at the Thorne-Sachigo confluence.

**Bufflehead.** Found in smaller all-male flocks than goldeneyes at Little Sachigo.

**Common Merganser.** Uncommon on Little Sachigo Lake, more common along the Thorne-Sachigo corridor.

**Red-breasted Merganser.** Common at Little Sachigo, where pairs were found; quite scarce on the rivers.

**Osprey.** Active nest located atop spruce at Warnock Lake 24 June, also carrying fish at east end of Little Sachigo. Seen at Bald Eagle Lake.

**Bald Eagle.** At least one adult was seen five times at different locations around the northwest side of Little Sachigo over a period of several days, both before and after the storm. An adult was seen at Bald Eagle Lake, and we later saw an immature. Brian Barfoot of Big Trout Air Service reports that Bald Eagles are nesting atop the mine shaft building of an abandoned gold mine in square 15XL04, north of Foster Lake between the Thorne and Sachigo Rivers.

**Northern Harrier.** A pair frequented the same spot and kept dropping down in vegetation in a marshy area at the outlet of Little Sachigo 15 June.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk.** Seen once at Little Sachigo Lake, once near trapper's camp over Sachigo River widewater.

**Northern Goshawk.** Seen once at Little Sachigo Lake near a bog; another dived at Stiles on the muskeg behind the Thorne, upstream from its confluence.

**Red-shouldered Hawk.** One at the marshy outlet of Little Sachigo Lake on 15 June, an area that also produced the harriers and kestrel. The bordering forest was mostly broad-leaved trees (birch-poplar); the habitat was certainly suitable.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** Noted once, north of Little Sachigo Lake, 15 June.

**American Kestrel.** Seen once, near start of Sachigo River near the outlet of Little Sachigo Lake 15 June.

**Merlin.** Not recorded in study area, although a small falcon near Prominent Ridge 20 June may have been this species.

**Spruce Grouse.** Male along stream north of Little Sachigo 19 June; male near Prominent Ridge 21 June; female Bald Eagle Lake 26 June. Also recorded on basis of fresh scat in three squares along Thorne R., two squares along Sachigo R.

**Ruffed Grouse.** Pair with brood below Prominent Ridge 21 June; drumming and fresh scat also observed at Little Sachigo Lake.

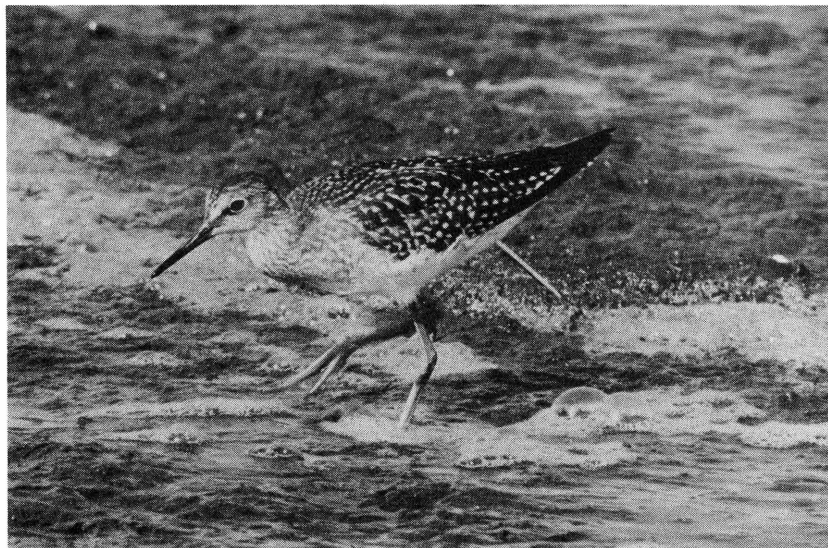
**Sora.** Heard at two locations in the marshy area near the outlet of Little Sachigo Lake, and also heard at a number of locations along the streams north of Little Sachigo Lake; often heard calling without prompting from our tape recorder, and two or more birds sometimes heard at same spot.

**Sandhill Crane.** Pair feeding in sedge meadow along stream north of Little Sachigo Lake 18 June; heard near Little Sachigo 20 June; heard twice along Thorne River; pair seen Sachigo River 1 July, for a total of five encounters within two weeks.

**Killdeer.** Not encountered in study area, but showing agitated behaviour at Big Trout Lake village near the Hudson Bay store.

**Greater Yellowlegs.** Numerous encounters of birds well seen and heard in five different squares, often with Lesser Yellowlegs for comparison, both at Little Sachigo Lake vicinity and along the river passage.

**Lesser Yellowlegs.** Numerous encounters in four different squares.



Lesser Yellowlegs.

PHOTO: R.D. McRAE

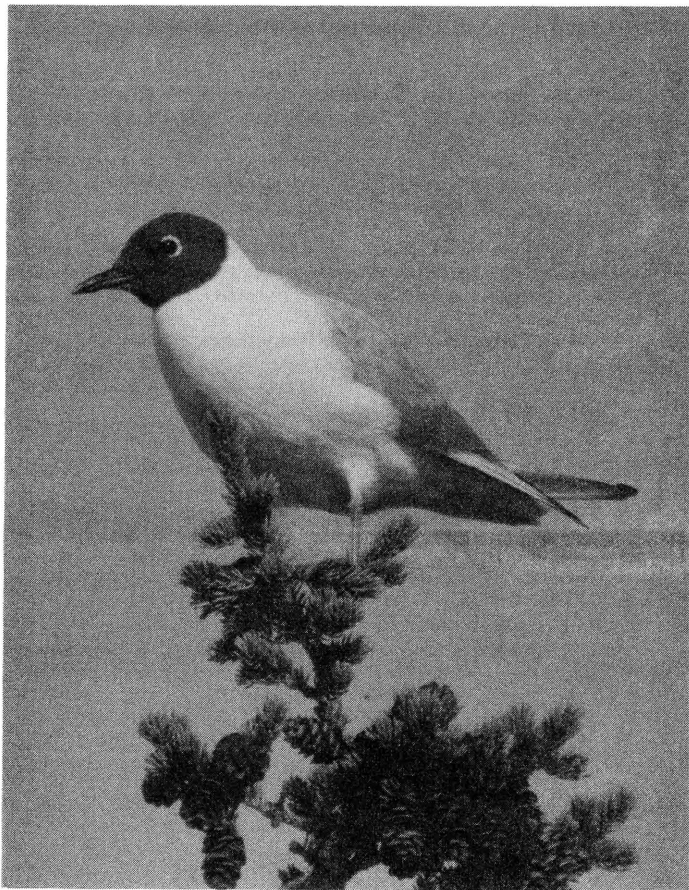
**Solitary Sandpiper.** Vigorous distraction display (one bird nearly falling into canoe) in swampy area below Warnock Lake 24 June. Regularly encountered in suitable habitat in nine different squares, with several encounters in some blocks, both near Little Sachigo and along the rivers.

**Spotted Sandpiper.** Distraction display near confluence of Thorne and Sachigo Rivers; numerous encounters in seven different squares.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** Two flushed from resting spot on islet at east side of Little Sachigo Lake on 15 June.

**Common Snipe.** Numerous encounters (seen, heard calling, winnowing) in seven different blocks both near Little Sachigo and the rivers.

**Bonaparte's Gull.** A pair frequented spruces at the east end of Little Sachigo Lake and another pair frequented spruces bordering Bald Eagle Lake, chasing off a Bald Eagle and sitting tight in a shoreline spruce as we paddled by within less than 15 m. Individuals seen several other times, and also seen on Pickle Lake.



Bonaparte's Gull.

PHOTO: R.D. McRAE



**Ring-billed Gull.** One individual in a small flock of Herring Gulls on an islet at the east end of Little Sachigo 24 June.

**Herring Gull.** A nest with eggs was found on a rock in the small lake south of the outlet of Little Sachigo 15 June. On the night of 20 June a number of nests with eggs and recently hatched chicks were found on a small rocky islet about 1.6 km out in the west end of Little Sachigo (where the cormorant nest was also found). A Herring Gull was also seen at Bald Eagle Lake 25 June, but none was seen along the rivers.

**Common Tern.** Adults were regularly seen carrying food to young at Little Sachigo Lake, but a nesting site was not found. It may be along the unexplored south side of the lake. Those recorded were clearly Common Terns. Several terns which might have been Arctic Terns were observed at Little Sachigo and Bald Eagle Lakes.

**Great Horned Owl.** At 0845 h, 29 June, in excellent light, a bird of the pale northern form (*B. v. wapacuthu*) was seen perched and subsequently in flight along the Thorne River; facial disc, breast, and back were entirely a frosty grey, with one or two brown primary tips showing through the folded wings. Downstream, that same night at 2350 h, we called in a pair of Great Horned Owls, but plumage could not be determined. The day of 30 June, further down the Thorne, another was heard calling.

**Northern Hawk-Owl.** At 0930 h, 19 June, in excellent light, a scolding bird flew out of the spruce forest over the stream leading north from Little Sachigo Lake to an unnamed lake, landed atop a spruce and scolded some more from about 30 m, and flew off across the stream. A search for a nest was unsuccessful. That same evening, over a mile north of the first encounter, we saw a second owl cache a vole or lemming atop a dead snag, then perch in some nearby spruce tops until dark.

**Great Gray Owl.** At 0705 h, 24 June, in good light, in the marsh below Warnock Lake, a Great Gray Owl flew by over the stream and into the muskeg, carrying food. The call heard downstream the night before undoubtedly was this species. A Great Gray was also heard calling at Bald Eagle Lake about 0300 h, 26 June.

**Boreal Owl.** At 0300 h, 28 June, during the brief period of real darkness, one began calling near Camp 6 along the Thorne River. It fell silent when a taped call was played, then gave a little sharp scream, screaming more to an imitative whistle of a saw-whet's toot. In response to a whistled imitation of screech owl it flew down, landing on a spruce pole beside our tent in the flashlight beam. He returned twice over the next hour for flashlight close-ups, sitting atop spruces giving his 9-11 note call, similar in a way to the whinny of a snipe. He was still calling as the sky lightened about 0400 h.

**Common Nighthawk.** Recorded in seven blocks; six or more at the confluence of Thorne and Sachigo Rivers, where they were booming at night; otherwise seen as singles or pairs.

**Belted Kingfisher.** Not frequently encountered, but two active nests found: northwest side of Little Sachigo Lake and along the Sachigo River widewater.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.** Heard near outlet of the Little Sachigo; old stitched holes on birches along Prominent Ridge.

**Hairy Woodpecker.** Once near east beach, Little Sachigo Lake.

**Black-backed Woodpecker.** Female, 28 June, near Camp 6 along Thorne River. None of many nestholes with beveled bottom edges seemed active along the Thorne.

**Northern Flicker.** Active nest along the Thorne 29 June; species noted in 8 squares.

- Olive-sided Flycatcher.** Only two encounters with this species, although suitable habitat abounds. One heard in bog behind Camp 2 at 0530 h, 20 June on the stream north of Little Sachigo; a second on the muskeg about a mile behind Camp 8 on the Thorne on 29 June.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.** Recorded in one block Little Sachigo Lake, four squares along the Thorne River; seemed quite scarce despite ideal habitat.
- Alder Flycatcher.** Numerous encounters in eight squares; nest-building along stream north of Little Sachigo 20 June.
- Least Flycatcher.** Feeding young in broad-leaf forest of birch-poplar bordering small lake south of Little Sachigo 15 June; recorded in five squares, but generally scarce.
- Tree Swallow.** Never confirmed, although recorded at a number of locations in five squares.
- Cliff Swallow.** Not recorded in study area, although seen gathering nesting material on muddy road at Big Trout Lake village.
- Gray Jay.** Probably the most ubiquitous species in all areas, and confirmed in ten different squares. Also confirmed south of Pickle Lake.
- American Crow.** Not recorded in study area, but recently fledged young observed in Big Trout Lake village.
- Common Raven.** Carrying food at east end of Little Sachigo; noted in seven squares, but more frequent around Little Sachigo than along the rivers.
- Black-capped Chickadee.** Only a single encounter; one or more birds heard in spruces across Sachigo River widewater on 4 July.
- Boreal Chickadee.** Nest with young in birch stub on stream north of Sachigo Lake 19 June; family group with fledged young along Thorne River 30 June; recorded in six squares. Scarce earlier in the season at Little Sachigo, but more vocal and obvious later along the rivers.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch.** In spite of abundant habitat, this species was found only at Warnock Lake, where it was noted on both the east and west shores in spruces.
- Brown Creeper.** Nest with young, 1 m up in a 1.5 m broken spruce stub behind Camp 2 on stream north of Little Sachigo, 20 June. Also found in four squares along the Thorne and Sachigo Rivers, with greatest density along the Thorne where birds were in song.
- Winter Wren.** Recorded in six squares, three at Little Sachigo, three along the rivers, but most frequently heard along the Thorne River.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet.** Recorded in six squares, three at Little Sachigo, three along the rivers, but nowhere common.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet.** Carrying food to young north of Little Sachigo; found in 12 different squares, and most abundant along the Thorne River, where one territory gave way to the next at times. We noticed that the song was different from that given in the Adirondacks.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush.** Heard and seen at Bald Eagle Lake near the Thorne 25-27 June at Camp 5. This was the only encounter with this thrush.
- Swainson's Thrush.** The usual evening and dawn songster in spruces around the campsites at Little Sachigo Lake and later a camp upstream from the Sachigo River; the most common thrush in most areas.

**Hermit Thrush.** The dawn and dusk songster around Thorne River campsites where jack pine was the dominant conifer on the sloping, well-drained sandy banks. We were surprised to find it becoming more common as we moved further north. However, we were dropping in elevation at the same time.

**American Robin.** Also more common along the Thorne. Secretive.

**Bohemian Waxwing.** Pair along Sachigo River below its confluence with the Thorne 1 July; prior to, and south of that, all waxwings had been "cedar birds." Nickerson saw and photographed another pair at Camp 10 upstream from the Sachigo that same evening of 1 July, and were heard the next morning. Waxwings heard only at Camp 11 on 2-3 July were suspected of being Bohemians.

**Cedar Waxwing.** Recorded in five squares, but nowhere common.

**Northern Shrike.** Adult sitting on a dead spruce pole in a stream mouth along the Thorne River on the morning of 29 June.

**European Starling.** Not recorded in study area. Active nest under eaves of Co-op at Big Trout Lake 4 July.

**Solitary Vireo.** Recorded in seven squares, as far north as the Sachigo River widewater, where it seemed most frequently encountered.

**Philadelphia Vireo.** Found singing at several locations along the Sachigo River in bankside poplars and willows 1-2 July. Plumage not as bright (greenish/yellowish) as Adirondack birds.

**Red-eyed Vireo.** Recorded in five squares. Most records from Little Sachigo Lake area where it was sometime found singing in streamside willow shrubs, but also found in more expected birch-balsam woods. Nowhere common.

**Tennessee Warbler.** Together with Yellow and Palm, one of the most common warblers, recorded in 13 squares, but only confirmed (carrying food) once, along the Thorne 29 June. Tennessees were generally in lakeside willows at Little Sachigo and riverbank willows along the rivers, but were rarely found up the smaller streams.

**Orange-crowned Warbler.** Found at several locations in streamside willows and alders upstream of Little Sachigo and several spots around Bald Eagle Lake, but not along the Thorne River. One location near the confluence.

**Yellow Warbler.** Quite regularly encountered along shorelines and streams, yet not confirmed. Not found at Bald Eagle Lake or along the upper Thorne, and then again regular from the confluence down the Sachigo R. widewater.

**Magnolia Warbler.** Recorded in eight squares, usually in spruces near the water's edge, but nowhere abundant.

**Cape May Warbler.** Not found along the Thorne River, although recorded in five squares near Little Sachigo and along the Sachigo widewater.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler.** Confirmed (carrying food) along the lower Thorne, noted in 11 squares, but not as common as we might have expected, given the amount of habitat.

**Palm Warbler.** All individuals seen were of the nominate "Western" subspecies (*D.p. palmarum*), as might be expected. Confirmed (carrying food) only twice, but regularly found in bog/muskeg habitat, usually away from lakeshores, streams, and rivers, in scattered to dense spruce-tamarack. At least six individuals in sight and sound at one place north of Little Sachigo in stunted tamarack bog. Noted in nine different squares.