A Little Bird told us!

Last week Captain Joe parked the boat for the season, but called me to say the weather looks good Thursday… how about we pull the boat out for one last run? Maybe a little bird told Captain Joe we needed to be out on the water?

The weather forecast was for calm winds but with dense fog, so we decided to make the call in the morning. When we arrived at the boat launch, only one boat trailer was parked… not a good omen. Weather didn't look promising except for a small opening in the fog bank where we planned to fish … we launched the boat and were off!



The shoreline soon disappeared in the fog as we ventured a few miles offshore. We dropped our lines and started fishing. We caught four lakers in the first 50 minutes, but hit a lull in fishing action.

We noticed a pair of seagulls circling closer and closer to us. We soon understood they were on the hunt, no not for fish but for three little birds out on the Big Lake. These little birds spent what seemed an eternity juking, cutting, sidestepping, spinning away, and weaving around our boat to elude these scavengers of the sky. The little birds tired each time they circled the boat, at least a dozen times. I think they made the call to land on the boat because they were flying on empty


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They were exhausted and wet! I think they became disorientated in the dense fog and a life raft appeared. The seagulls knew better not to get too close to the boat, and soon the little birds bonded with Joe and I…





After 20-30 minutes they seemed to regain energy and soon took over the boat. The sparrows the front the boat, and the black-eyed junco jumped around the boat looking for snacks, but eventually flew into the cabin below where it found a soft cushion and took a long nap.

After an hour and a half, we turned the boat around and headed back to port as the fog was lifting. The shore was once again visible, and when we were about a half a mile from shore the little birds flew off fully recharged and dry. Maybe it was serendipity Joe called me to make one more fishing trip?







Oh, we did happen to catch nine lakers, kept seven and released two. But highlight was our unexpected experience with these tough little birds.



Enjoy!
Ron Mattson (10/22/2026)