

Once the male alighted in the top of his own tree, and for a moment I was filled with hope, but he failed to recognize his territory and flew off without finding the nest that was so near. One, two, three hours went by and as my fear for the survival of the babies grew to an almost insupportable anguish I concluded that the only recourse was to raise the tree back near to its original position. I then went in search of the caretaker whom I found painting his boat on the beach. I told him the story and my conclusion. Without hesitation he dropped his painting, which he would not then be able to resume ^{until the next low} ~~on this tide, and went with me saying~~ philosophically first things have to come first. And then with wry humor remarked, "I have chopped down many trees, but never before have I tried to put one up again".

He found three stronger poles which he fashioned into a higher, sturdier tripod and with pulleys and rope we raised that tree ten feet higher and braced it in this position. I stood back to see the effect on the kinglets. The day was almost over, and if this attempt to make reparations did not succeed nothing could save the lives of the young birds. The adults had disappeared during the raising but soon, when all was quiet again, returned carrying food. They flew out into the space where they had sought so long in vain for their nest, found the tree top where none had been for several hours, dropped down immediately into the branches and disappeared. Great excitement prevailed for several minutes as they re-established contact with their offspring, settling down at last to the routine of feeding. They kept at it until dark and that night I was much easier in my mind having at least forestalled a complete disaster.

The next day the caretaker and I completed the lowering, three feet at a time, without further mishap. The birds accepted each successive drop without seeming to notice the change until the nest was only six feet from the ground. They adapted to the new situation with all its different associations as though they had planned it that way from the beginning.