informed by a chaffinch that there was no kind of
danger in picking it up.

“This is a lucky discovery indeed for us,” replied
her mate; “for this great increase of family renders
it prudent to make use of every means for supplying
our necessities. I myself must take a larger circuit,
for some insects that are proper for the nestlings
cannot be found in all places; however, I will bear
you company whenever it is in my power.”

The little ones now began to be hungry, and
opened their gaping mouths for food; on which their
kind father instantly flew forth to find it for them,
and in turns supplied them all, as well as his beloved
mate. This was a hard day’s work, and when even-
ing came on he was glad to take repose, and turning
his head under his wing, he soon fell asleep; his
mate soon followed his example. The four little
ones had before fallen into a gentle slumber, and
perfect quietness for some hours reigned in the nest.

The next morning they were awakened at the dawn
of day by the song of a skylark, which had a nest
near the orchard; and as the young redbreasts were
impatient for food, their father cheerfully prepared
himself to renew his toil, requesting his mate to
accompany him to the place she had mentioned.
“That I will do,” replied she, “but it is too early yet;