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A request

Please notify the Administrative Secretary of any errors or changes of name or address. In particular, a plea to the ladies; if you decide to change your name on marriage, do please let us know when writing or renewing your subscription; otherwise you may become two people in our records - and one of you will probably receive requests for an apparently unpaid subscription!

OBITUARY: BLUE-OVER-METAL TALL-RED

We thank the Danish ringing office (Copenhagen Museum) for notifying us of the death of an old friend - Sanderling Calidris alba blue-over-metal right, tall-red left. She played the female lead in our study of the breeding biology of Sanderlings in north-east Greenland in 1974 (British Birds 1976, 69:165-177) and she died about 10 June 1978 at Mestersvig near the site of the 1974 study. Blue-over-metal seems to have had a sense of history because she was, we think, the first bird to die in north-east Greenland in collision with a motor car. Perhaps this is a sign of the times but it is nevertheless a considerable achievement as there is only one road in north-east Greenland, and that is more of a track. It leads from a small harbour (Nyhavn) via Mestersvig (a hamlet of a dozen wooden buildings, a radio station and an airstrip) to a defunct mine (Blyklippen), a distance of perhaps 8 km. The traffic density over most of it is perhaps 10 vehicles per year although perhaps rising to 5 a day between Nyhavn and Mestersvig unless of course there have been massive developments since 1974, which seems unlikely. Perhaps blue-over-metal was asleep on the road or bemused by her first close contact with something moving faster than she could.

G.H. GREEN AND M.W. PIENKOWSKI