CORRECTION

We regret that, in the article by Yakushkin and Barr on 'The introduced musk-oxen of Poluostrov Taymyr' (*Polar Record* 24 (151): 321–24, 1988), a passage was lost in transcription from the paragraph on p. 323 headed 'Herding and population'. The following replaces lines eight and nine:

expanded enormously. By the start of winter a typical herd expands to 40–65 individuals. Adjacent herds, groups and single bulls merge with the main herd; as a result it now includes several dominant and subdominant bulls. No serious conflict occurs between the bulls during winter, however.

At the start of the calving period a typical large herd breaks into two to three herds, each of 10–12 animals, while many adult and immature bulls leave the herds. Each of the newly-formed herds consists, as a rule, of a dominant bull and a number of cows of different ages, along with yearlings and calves. After the end of calving these herds break up even further. Sometimes all the bulls, or else just the dominant bull, will leave the herd for a short time. The dominant bull always rejoins the herd prior to the start of the rut however. In August and September herd sizes range between four and 52 individuals.

The productive pastures in the Bikada basin have led to the cows reaching sexual maturity at an early age; they start to participate in the rut at the age of two years and produce calves annually thereafter. In 1985 for the first

Reviews

DEALING WITH DATA

BUILDING DATABASES FOR GLOBAL SCIENCE. Mounsey, H. and Tomlinson, R. F. (editors). 1988. London, Taylor and Francis. 419 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-85066-485-3. £35.00

These 27 papers, representing the first meeting of the International Geographical Union Global Database Planning Project, held at Tylney Hall, Hampshire, UK, 9-13 May 1988, discuss the creation and management of global-scale environmental information systems. Topics cover geographic information systems, automated cartography, spatial data management, developments in remote sensing, and improvements in computer technology for handling spatial data in bulk.

Roger Tomlinson's introduction is followed by a section of review papers, mostly by academics, and a slightly longer section of applications papers, mostly on the activities of agencies that handle environmental information. A summary by Michael Goodchild and a retrospective view of the papers by Terry Coppock (with comments made by rapporteurs throughout the sessions) complete the volume. The review papers address problems in creating global spatial databases, including copyright of databases, military or economic sensitivity of information, the issue of error in spatial data, identification of needs of database users, design of database structures, and the uniqueness and integration of diverse data sources. Their approach is generally sobering and critical, alerting the unwary to the many problems yet to be solved. Applications papers are generally less critical and more descriptive of experience in building, using and maintaining databases. Global data management in the USA, USSR and China are reviewed, as well as the activities of international agencies; North America and the UK appear to retain strong leads in this field. The urgent need for international standards of data quality, format and exchange is stressed. For me the most surprising omission from this section was discussion of the European Space Agency ERS-1 satellite programme, which will radically affect availability of global data in the near future.

Polar regions, which occupy some 15% of the Earth's surface and play major roles in global oceanic and atmospheric processes, receive little mention despite their importance and potential. An Antarctic Geographic Information System perhaps sponsored by SCAR, or a similarly-organized Arctic system, could make vital contributions to global databases. The book, which appears less than five months after the end of the conference, is nevertheless a valuable review of the current state of global spatial information handling, and of interest to all who are involved in using geographic databases, including polar scientists. (Colin Harris, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

AMUNDSEN'S LANTERN SLIDES

THE AMUNDSEN PHOTOGRAPHS. Huntford, R. (editor). 1987. London, Hodder and Stoughton. 199p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-340-41280-1. £17.95.

Among the exhibits received by the organizers of an exhibition in Vadsø, north Norway, to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Roald Amundsen's airship flight on Norge to Teller, Alaska, via Spitsbergen and the North Pole, were some memorabilia from the widow of the explorer's nephew. One item, a box marked 'Horlicks Malted Milk Tablets' turned out to contain not field rations but over 200 of Amundsen's original lantern slides, apparently the only more or less complete set to have survived. In this attractively produced volume a selection of the slides — cracks, scratches and all — has been reproduced to illustrate a summary account by Mr Huntford of the