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SASKATCHEWAN LONG-EARED OWL RECOVERED IN MEXICO

by **C. Stuart Houston**, Saskatoon

On January 26, 1965, Mr. Glen Peterson of Orland, California, was in the village of Mitla, state of Oaxaca, Mexico, when he was approached by an elderly Mexican who took a small packet from his pocket. He opened it and took out the foot of a bird, the shank of which was covered with fine tan feathers and the toes of which had talons almost three-quarters of an inch long. It carried an aluminum band #526-22635. The old man reported that a boy had found the bird dead and hanging in a tree nearly five years previously in the mountains about three days walk to the south, near Ejutla, Oaxaca.

The bird was a Long-eared Owl that I had banded on June 15, 1960, on the farm of Len Bruce, seven miles east and five miles north of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan. This species of owl is migratory, unlike its larger relative, the Great Horned Owl. Ejutla is 250 miles south of Mexico City, and about 2,500 miles south of Saltcoats.



Photo by Stuart Houston
Long-eared Owl, October 20, 1965