

belated BULLETIN, Cheviot-Westwood Kiwanis
November 15, 2009

For: Kiwanian bird-lovers

I invited local artist John Ruthven from 1 1/2 hours away in Georgetown, Ohio to speak to our club. He brought along his wife Lois to sit with Bev and Dillon Rhodenbaugh, friends. I exhibited my John Ruthven Academy of Medicine office building on Broadway Ave with two mourning doves that he had painted for the Academy's 150th anniversary, and he brought his original painting of the Ivory-billed woodpecker. I had introduced him, noting that he brought his painting of the beautiful pilated woodpecker and he had to correct me, that it was the Ivory-billed! They sure look alike, but the I.B. is larger and the female does not have a red crown like the male whereas the pilated, both the male and female have a red crown! He was an interesting speaker who at age 85 gave an intriguing talk for 30 minutes.

The cardinal is his favorite, and he has over 50 paintings of cardinals! Early on in his life he painted cartoons for "Play-dough" when the manufacturer of wallpaper cleaner switched his unused product to a kid's playdough.

Several years ago Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior called John from Washington D.C. and said "be here first thing in the morning, I have your flight ticket." Fifteen were assembled in the office for a secret mission with John Fitzpatrick. They viewed a home-made movie that showed for two seconds a suspected Ivory-billed woodpecker in flight in an Arkansas swamp, taken by Gene Sparling who had been kayaking among the cypress trees in the swamp.

The Ivory-billed woodpecker lived in the south, mostly in Florida. The American Indian deified the bird. Audubon

