

John Ruthven “Martha” Mural



"I am currently working on this new painting of Passenger Pigeons that will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon that died at the Cincinnati Zoo. In studying the life history of the passenger pigeon from writings of John J. Audubon, Alexander Wilson and others, they flew in huge numbers sometimes into the billions in one flock. Judging from these descriptions I am creating my painting to reflect what they said about these birds flying in "corkscrew masses". This scene includes the historic Bird Run at the Cincinnati Zoo. These buildings were the oldest structures of any zoo in America. They are all gone except one that was saved as a memorial to the Passenger Pigeon."



– John A. Ruthven

