

## Broad regional selection of top quality decoys spells success at Guyette & Deeter's summer sale

By Decoy Magazine  
Photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

**A** GOLDEN PLOVER in transitional plumage with relief-carved wings by John Dilley of Quogue, Long Island, New York sold to a phone bidder for \$103,500, nearly double the low estimate, at Guyette & Deeter's annual summer auction on July 26-27, 2016 at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. It was the top lot in an auction that had broad regional appeal, particularly for East Coast collectors.

Three more Long Island shorebirds



*Golden plover in transitional plumage by John Dilley of Quogue, Long Island, New York (est. \$57,500/80,500) sold for \$103,500, the top price in the auction.*

made the top 25 list, including a Dilley ruddy turnstone that sold to a New Jersey collector for \$17,250. There were two by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, a greater yellowlegs within estimate at \$89,125 and a golden plover that sold after

the auction well below estimate at \$19,550 (some collectors still attribute them to Bill Bowman). Also of note, a black-bellied plover by Thomas Gelston of Quogue fell short at \$11,500.

An early hollow-carved back preening black duck by Albert Laing of New York, New York and Stratford, Connecticut sold to a phone bidder over estimate at \$97,750. A pair of hollow-carved presentation black ducks by Shang Wheeler, Laing's Stratford neighbor, sold to a phone bidder well short of estimate at \$71,875.

A pair of presentation grade 1936 model mallards with highly detailed feather paint by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold to a Maryland collector after the auction for \$97,750, just short of esti-



*Yellowlegs by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, Long Island, New York, (est. \$80,500/103,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$89,125. Some decoy collectors, as well as this auction house, attribute it to Bill Bowman.*

*Pair of hollow-carved presentation black ducks by Shang Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut (est. \$92,000/138,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$71,875.*



*Hollow-carved preening black duck by Albert Laing of Stratford, Connecticut (est. \$57,500/80,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$97,750.*





Pair of oversized pintails by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$34,500/46,000) sold for \$46,000.

Pair of mallards by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$109,250/143,750) sold to a Maryland collector after the auction for \$97,750.

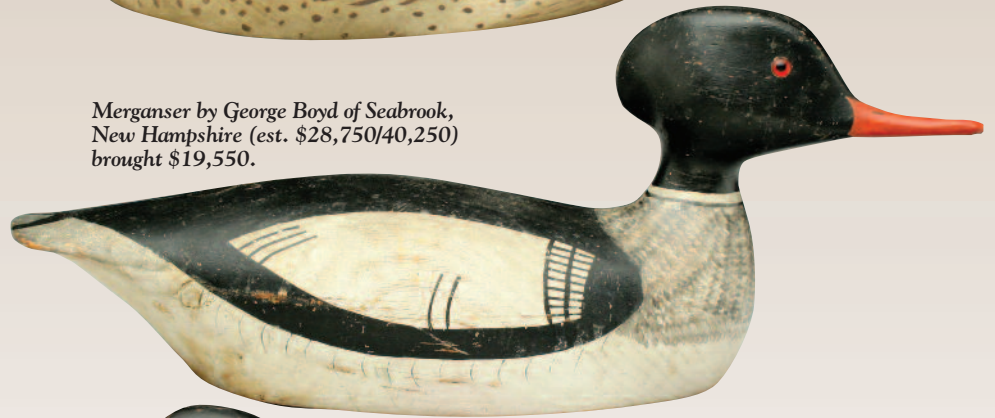
mate. A rare Ward brothers "humpback" style pintail with exceptional form sold for \$46,000 and a 1936 model mallard hen brought \$18,400, both making their low estimate. Also of note, a feeding yellowlegs on wire legs by their Crisfield neighbor, Noah Sterling, topped estimate at \$11,500.

A well-sculpted canvasback by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, with the "LD" brand in its bottom was the only North Carolina decoy in the top 25, selling just short of estimate to a Georgia collector for \$43,125. A roothead lesser yellowlegs by Charles Fulcher of Stacy sold to a Virginia collector for nearly double its estimate at \$10,925.

There were seven lots by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts on the top 25 list, topped by a pair of oversized pintails with fluted tails at their high estimate \$46,000. A pair of canvasbacks with raised primaries and carved secondaries and a preening black duck with fluted tail each made \$43,125, the pair within estimate and the preener over. A Monomoy style brant nearly doubled its estimate at \$21,850. Three Crowell decoratives made the top 25: black-bellied plover below estimate at \$34,500, Canada goose weathervane within estimate at \$24,150 and feeding greater yel-



Merganser by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire (est. \$28,750/40,250) brought \$19,550.



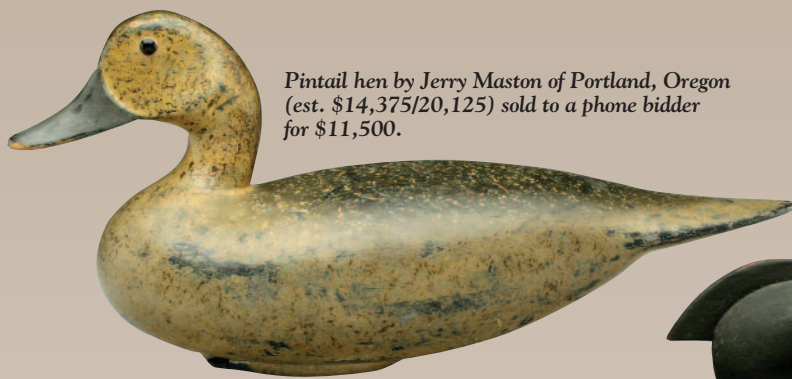
Oversized red-breasted merganser by Willie Ross of Chebeague Island, Maine (est. \$17,250/23,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$16,675.



Canvasback by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, North Carolina (est. \$46,000/69,000) sold to a Georgia collector for \$43,125.

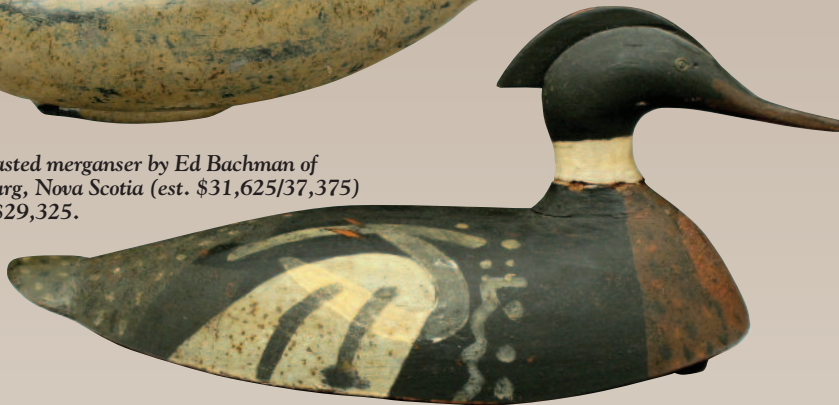






Pintail hen by Jerry Maston of Portland, Oregon (est. \$14,375/20,125) sold to a phone bidder for \$11,500.

Red-breasted merganser by Ed Bachman of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia (est. \$31,625/37,375) sold for \$29,325.



### Top 25 lots at the Guyette & Deeter auction Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July 26-27, 2016

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	John Dilley (NY) golden plover (123)	\$69,000	\$103,500
2.	Albert Laing (CT) HC preening black duck (56)	69,000	97,750
2.	Ward Bros. (MD) mallard pair (160)	126,500	97,750
4.	Charles Bunn (NY) yellowlegs (113)	92,000	89,125
5.	Shang Wheeler (CT) black duck pair, dec. (327)	115,000	71,875
6.	Ward Bros. (MD) pintail (169)	57,500	46,000
6.	A.E. Crowell (MA) oversized pintail pair (425)	40,250	46,000
8.	A.E. Crowell (MA) canvasback pair (417)	46,000	43,125
8.	A.E. Crowell (MA) preening black duck (418)	34,500	43,125
8.	Lee Dudley (NC) canvasback (474)	57,500	43,125
11.	J.R. Wells (ONT) HC canvasback hen (30)	34,500	35,650
12.	A.E. Crowell (MA) black-bellied plover, dec. (199)	46,000	34,500
13.	Harvey Stevens (NY) mallard (237)	40,250	34,500
14.	Alexander Pope (MA) hanging game carving (334)	34,500	33,350
15.	Ed Bachman (NS) red-breasted merganser (436)	34,500	29,325
16.	Nova Scotia loon (437)	25,875	28,175
17.	English/Dawson (NJ) HC mallard (8)	28,750	26,450
18.	A.E. Crowell (MA) Canada goose weathervane (196)	25,300	24,150
19.	A.E. Crowell (MA) brant (419)	13,800	21,850
20.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC RB merganser hen (463)	23,000	20,700
21.	Charles S. Bunn (NY) golden plover (115)	40,250	19,550
21.	George Boyd (NH) merganser (140)	34,500	19,550
23.	Ward Bros. (MD) mallard hen (174)	20,700	18,400
24.	Three lots tied for 24th place	20,125	17,250
24.	Three lots tied for 24th place	20,125	17,250
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$1,013,15</b>	<b>\$1,110,900</b>
	#A.E. Crowell (MA) running yellowlegs, dec. (195)	23,000	
	#John Dilley (NY) ruddy turnstone (124)	14,375	
	#George Stevens (NY) bluebill hen (238A)	23,000	

**Key:** HC – hollow-carved      RB. – red-breasted      dec. – decorative

The top 25 lots (5.2% of the 481 sold) accounted for \$1,062,025 (48.3% of the \$2,198,398 gross) and were 7.6% below their total average estimate.

lowlegs below estimate at \$17,250.

A red-breasted merganser by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire also made the top 25, selling for less than half the high estimate at \$19,550. Other New England lots of note included an oversized red-breasted merganser by Willie Ross of Chebeague Island, Maine below estimate at \$16,675, a feeding rocking head style black duck with mussel in its mouth by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine below estimate at \$11,500 and red-breasted merganser by Keyes Chadwick of Oak Bluff on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts within estimate at \$11,500.

A rare red-breasted merganser by Capt. Edwin Bachman of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia missed estimate at \$29,325. A rare loon decoy from Tancook Island, Nova Scotia made estimate at \$28,175. A hollow-carved canvasback hen by John R. Wells of Toronto also made the top 25 list, selling within estimate to a phone bidder at \$35,650. Other hollow-carved Ontario decoys of note include a mallard by John Reeves over estimate at \$12,650 and pair of redheads by Tom Chambers below estimate at \$10,350.

Two by the Stevens brothers of Weedsport, New York made the top 25 list: near mint mallard by Harvey Stevens of sold for its low estimate 34,500, while a bluebill hen credited to the Stevens brothers fell short at \$17,250.

A mallard hollow-carved by John English of Florence, New Jersey and painted by John Dawson of Trenton was the only Delaware River decoy on the top 25 list, selling to a phone bidder within estimate for \$26,450. A merganser hen, hollow-carved and painted by Dawson, brought \$11,500, half the low estimate. There were two hollow-carved lots of note by Bill Quinn of Yardley, Pennsylvania: mallard hen at \$10,350 and wigeon hen at \$9775, both short of estimate.

A hollow-carved red-breasted merganser hen by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton was the top lot from the Jersey coast, selling within estimate at \$20,700. Also of note, a pair of hollow-carved pintails by Clark Madera of Pitman just missed estimate at \$12,650.

A rare Canada goose brought the top price for a decoy by the Mason factory of Detroit, falling short of estimate at \$15,525. A Premier grade blue-winged teal made estimate at \$10,925. A pintail by Mark Whipple of Bourg, Louisiana topped estimate at \$11,500 and a pair of blue-winged teal by Curtis Rousseau of Chalmette, Louisiana nearly doubled the low estimate at \$8625.

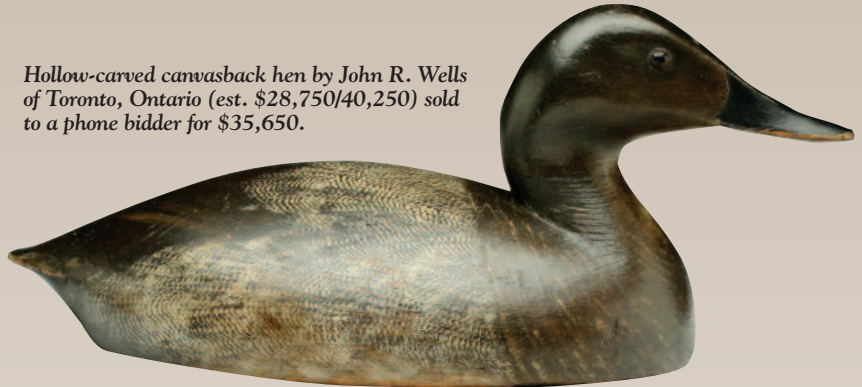
A rare pintail hen by Jerry Maston of Portland, Oregon was the top West Coast decoy, falling short of estimate at \$11,500. A green-winged teal hen by Charles Bergman of Astoria, Oregon fell



Hanging game carving by Alexander Pope of Dorchester, Massachusetts (est. \$28,750/40,250) sold to a phone bidder for \$33,350.



Mallard by Harvey Stevens of Weedsport, New York (est. \$34,500/46,000) brought \$34,500.



Hollow-carved canvasback hen by John R. Wells of Toronto, Ontario (est. \$28,750/40,250) sold to a phone bidder for \$35,650.



Hollow-carved mallard made by John English of Florence, New Jersey and painted by John Dawson of Trenton (est. \$23,000/34,500) sold for \$26,450.



Loon by an unidentified carver from Tancook Island, Nova Scotia (est. \$23,000/28,750) sold for \$28,175.

Hollow-carved red-breasted merganser hen by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold for \$20,700.



well short at \$6900.

An intricately detailed hanging game carving by Alexander Pope of Dorchester, Massachusetts sold within estimate to a phone bidder at \$33,350. A rare duck head duck call by Kinney & Harlow of Newark, Ohio sold for \$12,650, less than half the high estimate.

All in all this was a fairly successful auction, thanks largely to the high quality decoys from a broad range of East Coast

regions which appealed to a wide variety of tastes. There were at least 15 different makers who contributed to the top 25 lots, and 50 items in this auction – more than ten percent of the total sold – brought \$10,000 or more, with one making six figures. There were 63 lots with a \$494,633 total low estimate that failed to sell, yet the auction still grossed over \$2 million, and we're not including the paintings or weathervanes in this report.

In summary, of 544 decoy lots offered 63 failed to sell, leaving 481 lots that sold for \$2,198,398 for an average of \$4570 per lot and was .5% below the total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (5.2% of those sold) accounted for \$1,062,025 (48.3% of the gross) and were 7.6% below their total average estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Jim Julia served as auctioneer.

