

Caines brothers mallards add up to over a million at Guyette & Deeter's New Hampshire auction

By Decoy Magazine
Photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

A PAIR OF MALLARDS by the Caines brothers of Georgetown, South Carolina, from the estate of the late Tom Yawkee, the former owner of the Boston Red Sox, was offered separately at Guyette & Deeter's auction on July 23-24, 2018 at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The hen, a preener, was sold to South Carolina collector Dick McIntyre for \$767,000, the high-priced lot and an auction price record for its maker. The drake sold to a phone bidder for \$377,600. Added together, the pair, both selling over estimate, topped a million.

A hollow-carved Canada goose by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin, formerly in the collection of Dr. James McCleery and reportedly the finest example from Reindahl's personal rig, sold to a phone bidder for \$153,400. A hollow-carved reaching Canada goose by Nathan Cobb Jr. of Cobb Island, Virginia, sold to a phone bidder for \$118,000. Both lots brought double their low estimate. A Cobb hollow-carved black duck sold below estimate at \$14,160.

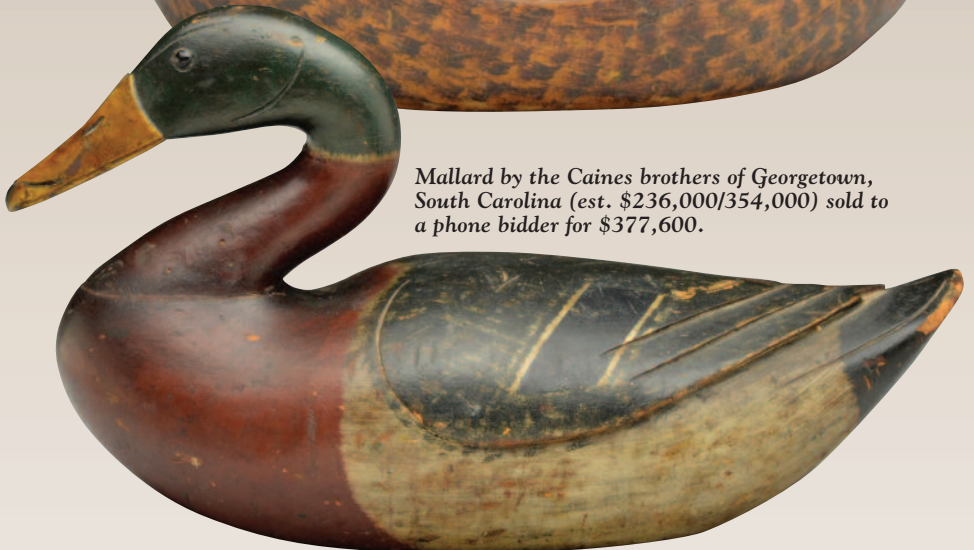
A rare feeding yellowlegs by Lothrop Holmes of Kingston, Massachusetts sold to a phone bidder over estimate at \$82,600. A hollow-carved presentation style black duck by Shang Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut sold within estimate at \$66,080. Both of those lots were also formerly in the McCleery collection. A green-winged teal by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire sold for \$26,550, well below estimate.

An old squaw hen from the Spear rig by Joe Lincoln of Accord, Massachusetts sold for \$59,590, over double the low estimate. A sanderling by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, his Bay State neighbor and friend, for-

Preening mallard hen by the Caines brothers of Georgetown, South Carolina (est. \$354,000/472,000) sold to a South Carolina collector for \$767,000, the top lot in the auction and an auction price record for its maker.



Mallard by the Caines brothers of Georgetown, South Carolina (est. \$236,000/354,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$377,600.



Hollow-carved reaching Canada goose by Nathan Cobb Jr. of Cobb Island, Virginia (est. \$59,000/82,600) sold to a phone bidder for \$118,000.



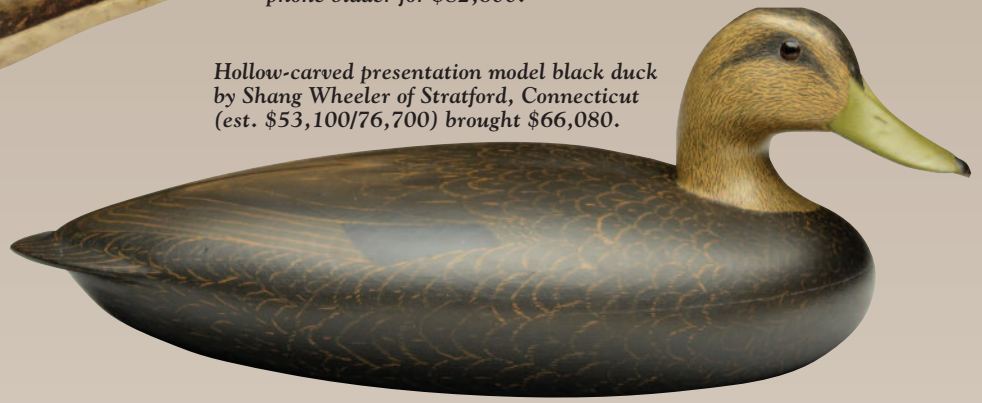
merly in the John Hillman collection, made estimate at \$44,250. A Crowell golden plover in winter plumage made estimate at \$21,240 and a greater yellowlegs fell short at \$20,650. One of Elmer's pintails with his oval stamp sold below estimate at \$25,960

and a sleeping black duck with a rectangular stamp made estimate at \$10,620.

Other Massachusetts decoys of note include an oversized old squaw by Capt. Clarence Bailey of Kingston that nearly doubled its estimate at \$17,700. A Canada



Feeding yellowlegs by Lothrop Holmes of Kingston, Massachusetts (est. \$47,200/70,800) sold to a phone bidder for \$82,600.



Hollow-carved presentation model black duck by Shang Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut (est. \$53,100/76,700) brought \$66,080.



Old squaw hen by Joe Lincoln of Accord, Massachusetts (est. \$29,500/41,300) brought \$59,590.



Sanderling by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$41,300/64,900) sold to a phone bidder for \$44,250.



Hollow-carved Canada goose by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin (est. \$76,700/100,300) sold to a phone bidder for \$153,400, an auction price record for its maker.



Unused 1936 model bluebill hen by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$11,210/14,750) sold for \$44,840.

goose by Russ Burr of Hingham made estimate at \$14,750. A pair of red-breasted mergansers by Keyes Chadwick of Martha's Vineyard sold below estimate at \$14,160.

Decoys and decoratives by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland contributed nine lots to the top 25 list (three of those were tied for 25th place). The biggest surprise was an unused 1936 model bluebill hen with a VL&A sporting goods stamp on the bottom that brought \$44,840, exactly four times the low estimate; a 1936 model mallard from the same source topped estimate at \$18,800.

A 1936 model black duck in excellent paint, also never rigged or used, sold at its low estimate \$41,300. A 1936 model old squaw hen, also unriggered, the first example of this species we've ever seen, just missed estimate at \$32,450.

A pair of 1936 model Ward mallards from California's White Mallard Gun Club sold to an online bidder within estimate at \$37,760. An earlier pair of mallards with structural issues that were announced at the podium sold to a phone bidder below estimate at \$20,060.

An early 1930s goldeneye hen with a turned and slightly cocked head sold below estimate at \$20,060. A pair of early 1930s

canvasbacks from the gunning rig of aviation pioneer Glenn L. Martin sold well below estimate at \$18,800.

A full-sized decorative grouse by the Ward brothers that was mounted on a burl base sold within estimate to an absentee bid at \$18,800. An early standing decorative blue-winged teal made its low estimate \$17,700.

Two decorative carvings by their Cr-



Green-winged teal by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire (est. \$35,400/47,200) brought \$26,550.



Ruddy duck by Alvirah Wright of Duck, North Carolina (est. \$20,650/26,550) sold to a South Carolina dealer for \$25,960.

Top 25 lots at the Guyette & Deeter auction Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July 23-24, 2018

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
*1.	Caines Bros. (SC) preening mallard hen (65)	\$413,000	\$767,000
2.	Caines Bros. (SC) mallard (107)	295,000	377,600
3.	Enoch Reindahl (WI) HC Canada goose (326)	88,500	153,400
4.	Nathan Cobb Jr. (VA) HC reaching Canada goose (220)	70,800	118,000
5.	Lothrop Holmes (MA) feeding yellowlegs (340)	59,000	82,600
6.	Shang Wheeler (CT) HC black duck (424)	64,900	66,080
7.	Joe Lincoln (MA) old squaw hen (201)	35,400	59,590
8.	Ward Bros. (MD) bluebill hen (137)	12,980	44,840
9.	A.E. Crowell (MA) sanderling (346)	53,100	44,250
10.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC red-breasted merganser (351)	35,400	41,300
11.	Ward Bros. (MD) black duck, 1936 model (404)	47,200	41,300
12.	Ward Bros. (MD) mallard pair, 1936 models (396)	35,400	37,760
13.	Oscar Peterson (MI) trout plaque (42)	23,600	33,040
14.	Ward Bros. (MD) old squaw hen (134)	41,300	32,450
15.	George Boyd (NH) green-winged teal (428)	41,300	26,550
16.	Alvirah Wright (NC) ruddy duck (127)	23,600	25,960
17.	A.E. Crowell (MA) pintail (337)	35,400	25,960
17.	A.E. Crowell (MA) golden plover (85)	23,600	21,240
19.	Charles Sumner Bunn (NY) robin snipe (156)	35,400	21,240
19.	John Dilley (NY) ruddy turnstone (237)	23,600	21,240
19.	William McLellan (CA) flying brant (15)	29,500	20,650
22.	A.E. Crowell (MA) greater yellowlegs (138)	29,500	20,650
23.	Ward Bros. (MD) goldeneye hen (139)	29,500	20,060
23.	Ward Bros. (MD) mallard pair (399)	29,500	20,060
#25.	4 lots tied for 25th place	26,403	18,800
TOTALS		\$1,602,883	\$2,137,620
	#John Dilley (NY) black-bellied plover (238)	35,400	
	#Ward Bros. (MD) grouse (301A)	20,650	
	#Ward Bros. (MD) mallard, 1936 model (398)	14,160	
	#Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback pair (405)	35,400	

Key: HC – hollow-carved * - auction price record for this maker

The top 25 lots (5.6% of the 448 sold) accounted for \$2,137,620 (63.1% of the \$3,390,170 gross) and was 33.4% over the total average estimate

isfield neighbor, Oliver “Tuts” Lawson, a pair of wood ducks mounted on a branch with carved honeysuckle and a standing brant, brought \$12,980 and \$7080, both lots over estimate.

A hollow-carved red-breasted merganser by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton was the top New Jersey decoy in the auction, selling to a phone bidder at its high estimate \$41,300. A hollow-carved pintail by John Blair Sr. of Philadelphia was the top Delaware River decoy, falling short of estimate at \$19,470.

A ruddy duck by Alvirah Wright of Duck, North Carolina, formerly in the collection of Jim Lewis, sold to a South Carolina dealer for \$25,960.

A robin snipe by Charles Sumner Bunn of Shinnecock, New York was one of three Long Island shorebirds on the top 25 list, selling well short of estimate at \$21,240; some collectors still refer to them as Bill Bowman shorebirds. A ruddy turnstone in winter plumage by John Dilley of Quogue sold within estimate to a Tennessee collector for \$21,240 and a black-bellied plover in transitional plumage sold to a New Jersey collector well below at \$18,800. Also of note, a black-bellied plover by Obediah Verity made estimate at \$12,980 and a robin snipe by Smith Clinton Verity sold well below at \$15,340.

A flying brant with detachable canvas-over-wood frame wings by William McLellan of Eureka, California, one of a set of nine, sold to a phone bidder well below estimate at \$20,650.

Two decoys by Harvey Stevens of Weed-sport, New York, a blue-winged teal and a redhead, sold below estimate to phone bidders for \$12,980 each. A black duck by George Stevens made estimate at \$10,030.

An American merganser by Orran Hiltz of Indian Point, Nova Scotia was the top Canadian decoy, selling below estimate at \$17,700, an auction price record for its maker. An exceptional hollow-carved red-



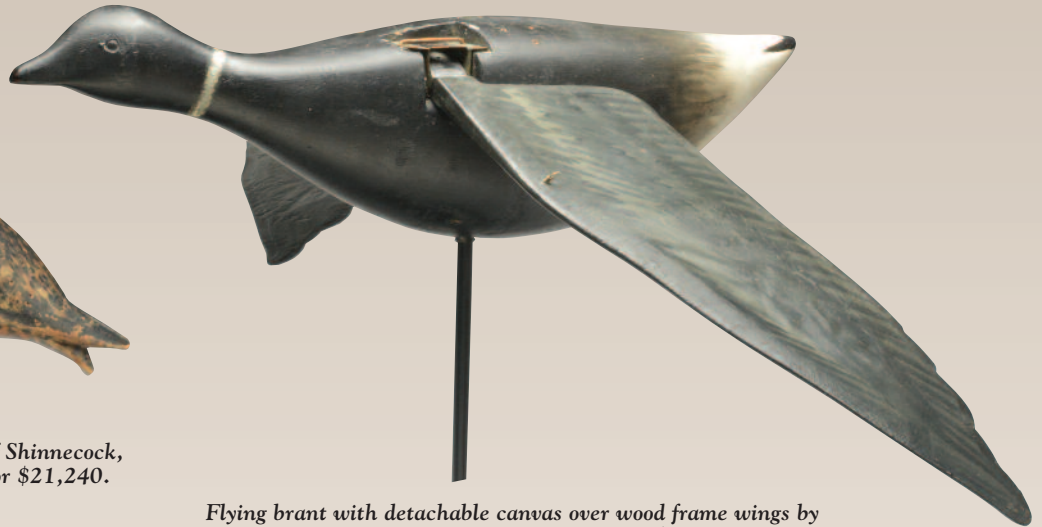
Black-bellied plover in transitional plumage by John Dilley of Quogue, New York (est. \$29,500/41,300) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$18,800.



Hollow-carved red-breasted merganser by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey (est. \$29,500/41,300) sold to a phone bidder for \$41,300.



Robin snipe by Charles Sumner Bunn of Shinnecock, New York (est. \$29,500/41,300) sold for \$21,240.



Flying brant with detachable canvas over wood frame wings by William McLellan of Eureka, California (est. \$25,875/32,450) sold to a phone bidder for \$20,650.



Rare dunlin by the Dodge decoy factory of Detroit (est. \$11,800/17,700) sold for \$18,290.



Trout fish plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan (est. \$20,650/26,550) sold for \$33,040.

head by George Warin of Toronto sold to an Ontario collector at its high estimate \$14,160. A pair of hollow-carved goldeneyes by J.R. Wells of Toronto more than doubled the high estimate at \$14,750.

An exceptional and rare dunlin by the Dodge decoy company of Detroit was the top factory decoy, topping estimate at \$18,290. A rare "tiger stripe" Canada goose by Ed Phillips of Cambridge, Maryland sold over estimate at \$9440.

A trout plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan sold well over estimate

at \$33,040. An early brook trout was the best of a group of Peterson fish decoys, more than doubling the low estimate at \$11,210.

While the pair of Caines brothers mallards quite rightly garnered most of the attention in this auction, there were plenty of other quality birds added to the mix, with 15 different makers represented in the top 25 lots. In all, there were 53 lots that sold for \$10,000 or more, including four that made six figures. And at \$767,000, the Caines preening mallard

hen tied for fifth place among the highest-priced decoys ever sold at auction.

In summary, of 522 decoy lots offered 74 failed to sell, leaving 448 lots that sold for \$3,390,170 for an average of \$7567 per lot and were 27.4% over the total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (5.6% of the total sold) accounted for \$2,137,620 (63.1% of the gross) and were 33.4% over their total average estimate. All prices include an 18% buyer's premium. Jim Julia served as auctioneer.

