

Southern decoys and contemporary decoratives fuel Guyette & Deeter's Charleston sale

By Decoy Magazine

photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

A PAIR OF PRESENTATION style turned head canvasbacks, signed and dated 1936, by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold just over estimate to a New Jersey collector at \$35,650, the top lot in Guyette & Deeter's auction on February 13, 2016 at the Charleston Marriott, held in conjunction with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. It was an auction fueled by Southern decoys and contemporary decoratives, with just enough lots from other regions to broaden the interest.

In addition to the canvasbacks, there were two more lots by the Ward brothers on the top 25 list: a 1932 goldeneye with a turned and cocked head at \$20,700, less than half the high estimate, and pair of decorative green-winged teal at its low estimate \$11,500. An unusual pair of special-order Ward canvasbacks of cottonwood construction sold below estimate at \$4600.

A robin snipe by Dan Lake Leeds of Pleasantville, New Jersey, the best of a small con-

signment of shorebirds from the Gilford collection, doubled its estimate at \$24,150. From the Delaware River side of the state, a black duck hollow-carved by John English of Florence and later repainted by John Dawson of Trenton, formerly in the John Hillman col-

Pair of canvasbacks, signed and dated 1936, by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$23,000/34,500) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$35,650, the top lot in the auction.



Robin snipe by Dan Lake Leeds of Pleasantville, New Jersey (est. \$10,350/13,800) sold to a phone bidder for \$24,150.

Black duck by Ned Burgess of Waterlily, North Carolina (est. \$7475/10,925) sold to a South Carolina dealer for \$11,500.



Hollow-carved black duck by John English of Florence, New Jersey and repainted by John Dawson of Trenton (est. \$23,000/34,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$21,850.



Flying pintail by Delbert Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia (est. \$14,375/20,125) sold to a phone bidder for \$10,350.



Semi-palmated plover by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$6900/10,350) brought \$9200.



lection, just missed estimate at \$21,850. Also of note, a hollow-carved pintail by Reg Marter of Bordertown brought \$4370 and a hollow-carved black duck by Dan English of Florence sold for \$4025.

Two full-sized decoratives on carved clamshell bases by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts made the top 25 list: a semi-palmated plover with open bill at \$18,400, double its low estimate, and ring-neck plover within estimate at \$9200.

A rare black duck with a slightly lifted head by Ned Burgess of Waterlily, North Carolina sold just over estimate to a South Carolina dealer for \$11,500. There were two Burgess ruddy ducks, both in old working repaint, that brought \$5175 apiece, both lots well over estimate. A whimbrel by Jimmy Sty-

ron of Harkers Island sold for triple its low estimate at \$5175. The biggest surprise was a reworked Jim Holly body that was reheaded and repainted by Mitchell Fulcher of Stacy that sold for \$4888, more than five times the high estimate.

A life-sized flying pintail with fine scratch feather paint detail by Delbert Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia, Ira's youngest son, sold well short of estimate at \$10,350. A hollow-carved black duck by Nathan Cobb Jr. of Cobb Island brought \$5750, exactly as estimated. A ruddy turnstone that was attributed to Cobb Island sold to a phone bidder for \$9775, more than double the low estimate. A large curlew by an unknown Virginia maker in nice original paint brought \$7188, more than double the estimate. And a peep by Eli

Doughty of Hog Island sold to a South Carolina collector for \$6900, double the low estimate.

A mallard by Harvey Stevens of Weedsport, New York sold within estimate at \$6325. Downstate in Long Island, a peep by Obediah Verity of Seaford brought \$7763, more than double the low estimate. A rignate pair of Premier grade mallards by the Mason Decoy factory of Detroit sold within estimate for \$6785 and a pintail by Mitchel Lafrance of New Orleans brought \$4888, triple its estimate.

Five contemporary decorative lots made the top 25 list, topped by a preening pintail hen, signed and dated 1998, by Jett Brunet of New Orleans at \$15,525, an auction price record for its maker. An oversized mallard by

Ruddy turnstone attributed to a Virginia maker (est. \$4600/6900) sold to a phone bidder for \$9775.



Peep by Eli Doughty of Hog Island, Virginia (est. \$3450/4600) sold to a South Carolina collector for \$6900.

Mallard by Harvey Stevens of Weedsport, New York (est. \$5750/9200) sold for \$6325.



Top 25 list for Guyette & Deeter auction Charleston, South Carolina, February 13, 2016

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback pair, 1936 (227A)	\$28,750	\$35,650
2.	Dan Lake Leeds (NJ) robin snipe (188I)	12,075	24,150
3.	English/Dawson (NJ) HC black duck (56A)	28,750	21,850
4.	Ward Bros. (MD) goldeneye, 1932 model (60)	40,250	20,700
5.	A.E. Crowell (MA) semi-palmated plover, dec. (20)	11,500	18,400
*6.	Jett Brunet (LA) preening pintail hen, dec. (164)	11,500	15,525
*7.	Ernie Muehlmann (MD) carving of 7 quail (163)	5,750	12,075
8.	Ned Burgess (NC) black duck (38)	9,200	11,500
8.	Ward Bros. (MD) green-winged teal pair, dec. (101)	13,800	11,500
10.	Delbert Hudson (VA) flying pintail wall mount (108)	17,250	10,350
11.	Attr. Virginia ruddy turnstone (188G)	5,750	9,775
12.	Tan Brunet (LA) mallard, dec. (166A)	8,625	9,200
12.	A.E. Crowell (MA) ringneck plover, dec. (20D)	8,625	9,200
14.	Jim Schmiedlin (PA) canvasback pair (80)	9,775	8,625
15.	Obediah Verity (NY) running peep (188K)	4,025	7,763
16.	Virginia curlew (188H)	3,450	7,188
17.	Eli Doughty (VA) peep (188J)	4,025	6,900
18.	Mason factory (MI) Premier mallard pair (206A)	5,750	6,785
19.	Harvey Stevens (NY) mallard (55)	7,475	6,325
20.	Nathan Cobb Jr. (VA) HC black duck (148)	5,750	5,750
21.	Ned Burgess (NC) ruddy duck (40)	920	5,175
21.	Ned Burgess (NC) ruddy duck (293)	1,553	5,175
21.	Jim Styron (NC) whimbrel (189)	2,300	5,175
21.	Jim Schmiedlin (PA) RB merganser pair (81)	8,050	5,175
#25.	Two lots tied for 25th place	1,179	4,888

TOTALS \$256,077 \$284,799

#Mitchel Lafrance (LA) pintail (207) 1,610
#Mitchell Fulcher (NC) reheaded redhead (47) 748

Key: HC - hollow-carved RB - red-breasted dec. - decorative
Attr. - attributed * - auction price record for this maker

The top 25 lots (7.8% of the 319 sold) accounted for \$284,799 (40.1% of the \$709,627 gross) and were 11.2% over their total average estimate.

his father, Tan Brunet, brought \$9200. Also of note, an American merganser by Jimmie Vizier of Galliano sold for \$4600, double its estimate.

There were nine lots by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania and two made the top 25 list: a pair of canvasbacks within estimate at \$8625 and pair of red-breasted mergansers well below at \$5175. A life-sized carving of seven quails on rocks, entitled "Family Portrait," by Ernie Muehlmann of Salisbury, Maryland more than doubled its estimate at \$12,075, an auction price record for its maker. Also of note, a 2/3-sized flying turkey by Eddie Wozny of Cambridge, Maryland fell short of estimate at \$2185.

This unreserved auction with its emphasis on Southern decoys and contemporary decoratives seems well-designed for its audience. They increased their gross sales over 2015 by about 40% with only a 10% increase in the number of lots. And only three of them failed to sell.

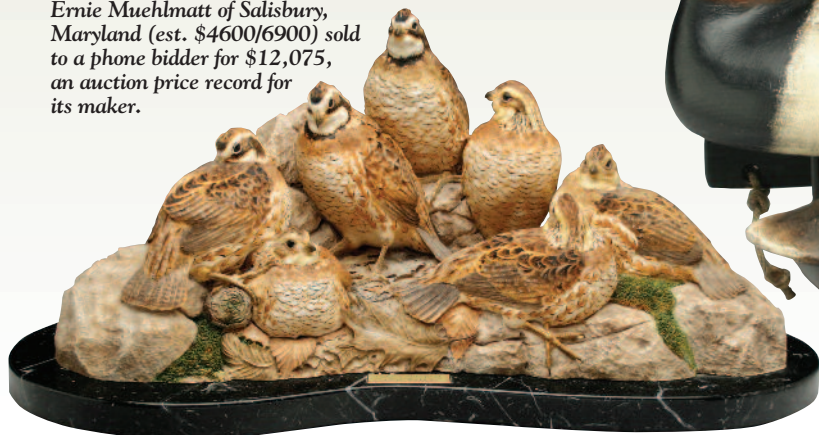
In summary, of 322 lots offered three failed to sell, leaving 319 lots that sold for \$709,627 for an average of \$2225 per lot and were 9.6% over the total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (7.8% of those sold) accounted for \$284,799 (40.1% of the gross) and were 11.2% over their total average estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Larry Carter served as auctioneer. 🏠

Preening pintail hen by Jett Brunet of New Orleans (est. \$9200/13,800) sold to a phone bidder for \$15,525, an auction price record for its maker.



Pair of canvasbacks by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania (est. \$8050/11,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$8625.

Carving of seven life-sized quail by Ernie Muehlmann of Salisbury, Maryland (est. \$4600/6900) sold to a phone bidder for \$12,075, an auction price record for its maker.



Cigar Daisey wood duck tops Barfield's "Sportsman's Auction"

ARARE, possibly one-of-a-kind wood duck by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey sold for \$5170, the top lot at Barfield's annual mid-winter "Sportsman's Auction" on February 26-27, 2016 at their auction facility in Hallwood on Virginia's Eastern Shore. One of Cigar's coots brought \$880.

Barfield holds three sportsman's auctions a year, offering a selection of vintage and contemporary decoys, firearms, oyster collectibles and related hunting and fishing collectibles. Between Friday evening and Saturday he offered 474 lots to online bidders and hundreds of other items that were only available to those in attendance. And the best part of this sale is that one never knows what might end up on the tables.

A pair of canvasbacks, signed and dated 1963, by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland brought \$4840. A pair of their 1960s goldeneyes, with a poem on the bottom of the hen, sold for \$2750. A larger than usual snow goose miniature brought \$1980. A pair of pintails with near-mint scratch feather paint by their neighbor Lloyd Tyler sold for \$2200 and one of his black ducks brought \$605.

From Virginia, a sculptural pintail by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague with some overpaint, possibly by Lem Ward, sold for \$3960. A Hudson yellowlegs brought \$1540. A pair of pintails by his neighbor Doug Jester sold for \$2200.

A Canada goose with a large metal keel, which obviously served as a handle, by Otis Bridges of Bozman, Maryland sold for \$1320. A canvasback attributed to Ed Parsons of Oxford, Maryland - some thought it was by Tom Parsons - sold for \$660 and a bluebill by Ed Parsons brought \$633.

There were numerous lots by Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace, Maryland, including a pair of sleeping canvasbacks that sold for \$743. There were also a large number of lots by Charlie Joiner of Chestertown, Maryland, including a pair of canvasbacks at \$825. A pair of wood ducks by George Strunk of Glendora, New Jersey brought \$770.

A miniature swan by Bob McGaw of Havre de Grace sold for \$495. A miniature blue jay by Eddie Wozny of Cambridge, Maryland brought \$413. And an old Upper Bay style cast iron miniature canvasback sold for \$284. We're no expert on oyster collectibles, but a rare Garden State can sold to a phone bidder for \$3190.

There were so many lots sold over the



Rare possibly one-of-a-kind wood duck by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey sold for \$5170, the top lot in the auction.



Pair of pintails by Lloyd Tyler sold for \$2200.



Pair of canvasbacks, signed and dated 1963, by the Ward brothers sold for \$4840.



Sculptural pintail by Ira Hudson with some repaint, possibly by Lem Ward, sold for \$3960.



Rare Garden State oyster can sold for \$3190.

two-day sale that it seems like just about everyone was able to buy something. Barfield's actually used four different auctioneers to move the items. Quite a number of dealers who attend these events use them as an opportunity to add inventory. One Maryland collector, who must have bought 30 decoys, was intending to sell them at the upcoming East Coast Decoy Collectors get together in St. Michaels, Maryland in April.

In summary, the two day sale grossed nearly \$200,000. No estimates are established and only a few items are sold with a reserve. All prices include a 10% buyer's premium. At the end of the sale on Saturday Barfield's offered a complimentary pig roast with beans and coleslaw. Most of those in attendance took the opportunity to chow down before hitting the road.

