

# Lincoln hissing Canada goose sets record at Decoys Unlimited's summer auction

A HISSING CANADA GOOSE by Joe Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts, used as a stick-up, not as a floater, sold just under estimate to a phone bidder for \$299,000 at Decoys Unlimited's annual summer auction on July 22, 2016 at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis, Massachusetts. It was the top lot in the auction and an auction price record for its maker.

There were five other lots by Lincoln on the top 25 list, including a wigeon that sold for \$10,350. A near-mint self-

By Decoy Magazine  
Photos courtesy Decoys Unlimited

bailing brant sold for \$5463 and an early upright goose brought \$4025. Two shorebirds, a greater and lesser yellowlegs, sold for \$5750 and \$6613. Only the last of the group made estimate.

A life-sized semi-palmated plover was the best of five lots by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts to make the

top 25 list, topping estimate at \$17,250. A possible one-of-a-kind ruby-throated hummingbird in flight made estimate at \$11,500. Three of them were hunting decoys: lowhead goldeneye hen within estimate at \$4888, bluebill hen at its low estimate \$4025 and goldeneye under estimate at \$4025.

An oversized hissing Canada goose with canvas-over-frame construction by Capt. Clarence Bailey of Kingston, Massachusetts sold just short of estimate at \$10,925. An oversized merganser hen by James Look of West Tisbury on Martha's

*Hissing Canada goose by Joe Lincoln of Accord Village, Massachusetts (est. \$316,250/373,750) sold to a phone bidder for \$299,000, the top lot in the auction and an auction price record for its maker.*



*Life-sized semi-palmated plover by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$11,500/13,800) sold for \$17,250.*

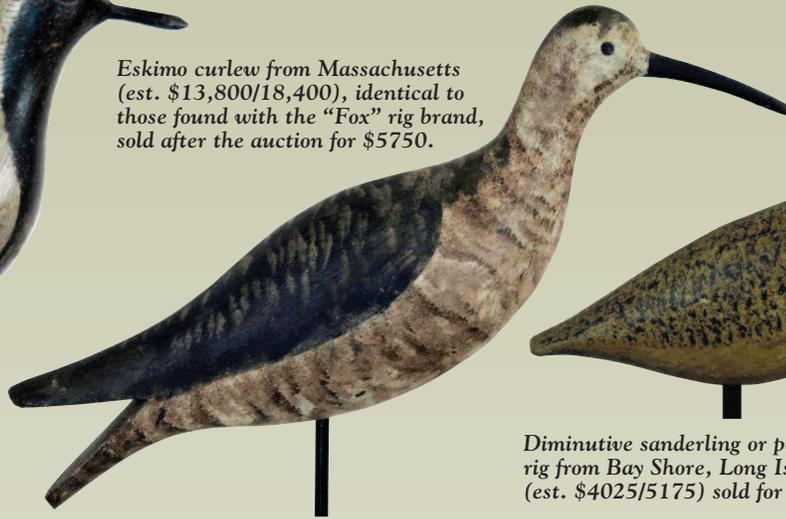


*Oversized canva-over-frame construction hissing Canada goose by Capt. Clarence Bailey of Kingston, Massachusetts (est. \$11,500/17,250) brought \$10,925.*

*Black-bellied plover from the South Shore of Massachusetts (\$8050/10,350) sold for \$8050.*



*Eskimo curlew from Massachusetts (est. \$13,800/18,400), identical to those found with the "Fox" rig brand, sold after the auction for \$5750.*



*Diminutive sanderling or peep from the Skala rig from Bay Shore, Long Island, New York (est. \$4025/5175) sold for \$4888.*

Vineyard fell short at \$6325. Two Massachusetts shorebirds by unknown makers, a black-bellied plover and an Eskimo curlew, made the top 25 list, the first at its low estimate \$8050 and the latter, after the auction, well below at \$5750.

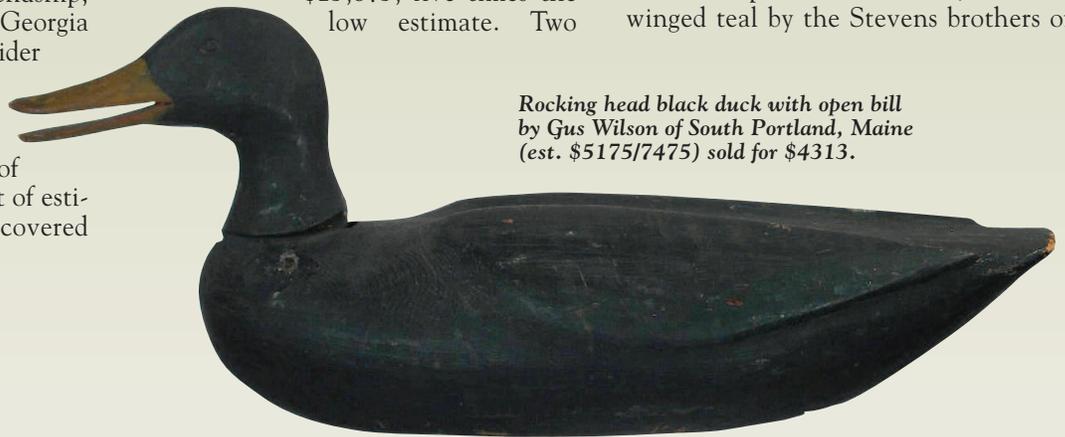
A hollow-carved red-breasted merganser by George Huey of Friendship, Maine sold within estimate to a Georgia collector for \$12,650. A Maine eider by an unknown maker sold after the auction below estimate at \$5750. A calling rocking head style black duck by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine fell short of estimate at \$4313. And a canvas-covered

Canada goose by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire just missed estimate at \$4600.

A pair of phone bidders battled it out for a tern decoy, the best of a group of about a dozen shorebirds from the Skala rig of Long Island, with the victor paying \$25,875, five times the low estimate. Two

black-bellied plovers from the rig sold over estimate at \$6325 apiece and a diminutive sanderling or peep sold within estimate for \$4888. A greater yellowlegs by John Henry Verity of Seaford, Long Island doubled its estimate at \$9200.

From upstate New York, a blue-winged teal by the Stevens brothers of



*Rocking head black duck with open bill by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine (est. \$5175/7475) sold for \$4313.*



*Red-breasted merganser by George Huey of Friendship, Maine (est. \$11,500/17,250) sold to a Georgia collector for \$12,650.*



*Greater yellowlegs by John Henry Verity of Seaford, Long Island, New York (est. \$3450/5750) sold for \$9200.*



*Tern from the Skala rig of Bayshore, Long Island, New York (est. \$5175/7475) sold to a phone bidder for \$25,875.*

## Top 25 lots at the Decoys Unlimited auction Hyannis, Massachusetts, July 22, 2016

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
*1.	Joe Lincoln (MA) hissing Canada goose (312)	\$345,000	\$299,000
2.	Long Island (NY) tern (442)	6,325	25,875
3.	A.E. Crowell (MA) semi-palmated plover (91)	12,650	17,250
4.	George Huey (ME) red-breasted merganser (366)	14,375	12,650
5.	A.E. Crowell (MA) ruby-throated hummingbird (456)	12,650	11,500
6.	Capt. Clarence Bailey (MA) CC hissing Canada goose (313)	14,375	10,925
7.	Joe Lincoln (MA) wigeon (317)	12,650	10,350
7.	Harvey Stevens (NY) blue-winged teal (51)	16,100	10,350
9.	John Henry Verity (NY) greater yellowlegs (157)	4,600	9,200
10.	John R. Wells (ONT) HC canvasback (392)	2,300	8,050
10.	Massachusetts black-bellied plover (422)	9,200	8,050
12.	Joe Lincoln (MA) yellowlegs (168)	6,325	6,613
13.	Long Island (NY) black-bellied plover (441)	4,025	6,325
13.	Long Island (NY) black-bellied plover (159)	4,025	6,325
13.	James Look (MA) merganser hen (333)	9,775	6,325
16.	Massachusetts Eskimo curlew (420)	16,100	5,750
16.	Joe Lincoln (MA) greater yellowlegs (421)	9,775	5,750
16.	Maine eider (369)	8,625	5,750
19.	Joe Lincoln (MA) self-bailing brant (315)	12,075	5,463
20.	Ward Bros. (MD) bufflehead pair (205)	6,325	5,175
21.	A.E. Crowell (MA) goldeneye hen (326)	4,025	4,888
21.	Long Island (NY) sanderling or peep (443)	4,600	4,888
23.	George Boyd (NH) CC Canada goose (364)	6,325	4,600
24.	Gus Wilson (ME) calling rocking head black duck (365)	6,325	4,313
#25.	Three lots tied for 25th place	4,792	4,025

**TOTALS \$553,342 \$499,390**

# Joe Lincoln (MA) Canada goose (316)	5,175
# A.E. Crowell (MA) goldeneye (325)	5,175
# A.E. Crowell (MA) bluebill hen (327)	4,025

**Key:** HC – hollow-carved      CC – canvas-covered  
\* - auction price record for this maker

The top 25 lots (4.5% of 558 sold) accounted for \$499,390 (59.2% of the \$843,065 gross) and were 9.8% below their total average estimate.

Weedsport sold to a phone bidder under estimate at \$10,350. A hollow-carved canvasback by John R. Wells of Toronto was the only Canadian decoy on the top 25 list, selling to a phone bidder for \$8050, over triple the estimate. A pair of buffleheads by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland was the only Southern decoy on the top 25 list, making its low estimate \$5175.

Others of note include a merganser hen by Keyes Chadwick of Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard that sold well short of estimate at \$3450. A mallard by Charles "Napoleon" Armstrong of Pilottown was the best of a group of Louisiana decoys, more than doubling the high estimate at \$2875. For spearfishing collectors, a red, white and yellow fish decoy by William Flanagan of Staples, Minnesota made estimate at \$2875.

Decoys Unlimited always offers a large selection of miniatures, and this year was no different. Two Crowell mini shorebirds, a dunlin and a jacksnipe, brought \$3738 each, and two rare preening ducks, a pintail and a blue-winged teal, sold for \$3450 each, all over estimate.

This was the first time in recent memory that Decoys Unlimited held only a one-day summer auction, yet the 613 decoy lots were the most offered by any of the three auctions held during the week. Of those, 55 lots with a \$235,923 low estimate failed to sell. This report does not account for the 40 non-decoy lots included in the auction.

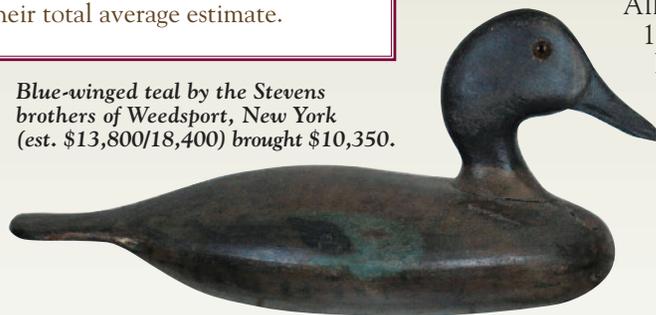
In summary, of 613 lots offered 55 failed to sell, leaving 558 lots that sold for \$843,065 for an average of \$1511 per lot and were .7% below their total low estimate after deducting the total low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (4.5% of those sold) accounted for \$499,390 (59.2% of the gross) and were 9.8% below their total average estimate.

All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Larry Carter served as auctioneer. 

Pair of buffleheads by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$5175/7475) sold for \$5175.



Blue-winged teal by the Stevens brothers of Weedsport, New York (est. \$13,800/18,400) brought \$10,350.



Hollow-carved canvasback by John R. Wells of Toronto, Ontario, Canada (est. \$1725/2875) sold to a phone bidder for \$8050.

