

Select group of shorebirds and pintails top the charts at Copley's annual "Winter Sale"

A YELLOWLEGS with superb form, impeccable paint pattern and near-perfect dry surface patina by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, Long Island, New York sold over estimate to a New Jersey collector for \$90,000 at the Copley Fine Art Auctions "Winter Sale" on February 17, 2017 at the American Theater in Charleston, South Carolina.

Formerly in the collection of Harold Herrick Jr., it was the top lot in an auction that featured 13 shorebirds and a trio of pintails among the top 25 lots. A black-bellied plover by Bunn, formerly in the collection of Dr. James McCleery, sold within estimate at \$69,000 to the same collector. A Bunn dowitcher fell well short of estimate at \$12,000.

A hollow-carved swan by Charles Birch

By Decoy Magazine
photos courtesy Copley Fine Art Auctions

of Willis Wharf, Virginia, in old gunning paint and used at the Gooseville Gun Club in Hatteras, North Carolina, sold short of estimate at \$60,000. A greater yellowlegs by his Virginia neighbor, Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, made estimate at \$19,200.

A unique pair of 1930s life-sized flying mallards by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold well below estimate at \$34,500. Other Wards on the top 25 list included a pair of decorative standing blue-winged teal at \$22,000, a rare decorative feeding curlew at \$15,600, a decorative preening Canada goose at \$12,000 and a

pair of bluebill decoys at \$9600. Only the bluebills made estimate. A pair of greater yellowlegs on wire legs by Noah B. Sterling, their Crisfield neighbor, sold within estimate at \$27,600.

A mid-19th century hollow-carved sleeping pintail from the rig of Richard Wistar Davids of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania sold to a Maryland collector for its high estimate \$30,000 (see Decoy Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2016 issue). A hollow-carved turned head pintail from the Carriage House rig of Lake Villa, Illinois sold over estimate at \$28,800. And a standing hollow-carved pintail by Charles Schoenheider Sr. of Peoria, Illinois just missed estimate at \$28,800.

A "dust jacket" style black-bellied plover by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts, formerly in the Harry V. Long rig, sold well below estimate at \$22,800. Other



Hollow-carved swan by Charles Birch of Willis Wharf, Virginia (est. \$72,000/84,000) sold for \$60,000.



Yellowlegs by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, New York (est. \$60,000/84,000) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$90,000, the top lot in the auction.



Black-bellied plover by Charles Sumner Bunn (est. \$60,000/84,000) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$69,000.

Standing pintail by Charles Schoenheider Sr. of Peoria, Illinois (est. \$30,000/42,000) sold for \$28,800.



Pair of life-sized flying decorative mallards by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$48,000/60,000) sold for \$36,000.



Crowells on the top 25 list include a yellowlegs below estimate at \$18,000, a willet within estimate at \$15,600 and a Canada goose at its low estimate \$6000. A Crowell wigeon just missed estimate at \$4800.

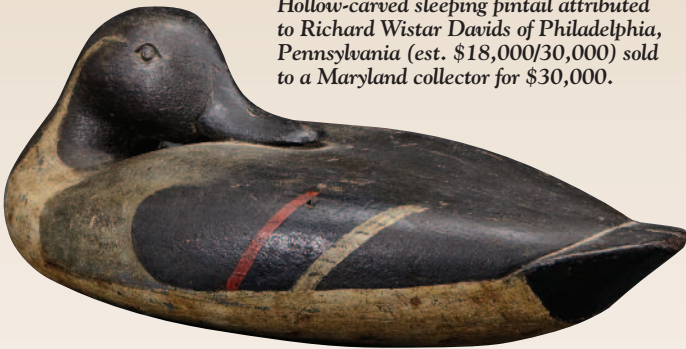
A yellowlegs by Lew Barkalow of Forked River, New Jersey, formerly in the Mackey

collection, sold within estimate at \$13,200. A ruddy turnstone by John McAnney of New Gretna tripled the low estimate at \$10,800. A dowitcher by Rowley Horner of West Creek, also from the Mackey collection, sold for \$7200, exactly as estimated. There were four lots by Harry V. Shourds of

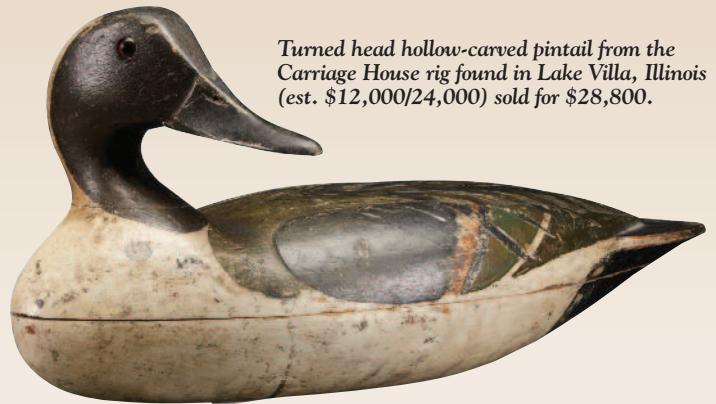
Tuckerton that sold for \$4800 each: curlew, robin snipe, two yellowlegs and a pair of old squaws, all selling below estimate.

An early style mallard by Harvey Stevens of Weedsport, New York sold for its low estimate \$9600. A rare redhead wooden wing duck by Ben Dye of Perryville, Maryland

Hollow-carved sleeping pintail attributed to Richard Wistar Davids of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (est. \$18,000/30,000) sold to a Maryland collector for \$30,000.



Turned head hollow-carved pintail from the Carriage House rig found in Lake Villa, Illinois (est. \$12,000/24,000) sold for \$28,800.



Greater yellowlegs by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia (est. \$18,000/30,000) sold for \$19,200.



Pair of wire-legged greater yellowlegs by Noah B. Sterling of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$21,600/28,800) sold for \$27,600.





"Dust Jacket" style black-bellied plover by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$36,000/48,000) sold for \$22,800.



Redhead wooden wing duck by Ben Dye of Perryville, Maryland (est. \$4800/7200) sold for \$5700.



Yellowlegs by Lew Barkalow of Forked River, New Jersey (est. \$12,000/18,000) sold for \$13,200.

Top 25 lots at the Copley Fine Art Auctions "Winter Sale" Charleston, South Carolina, February 17, 2017

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	Charles Sumner Bunn (NY) yellowlegs (237)	\$72,000	\$90,000
2.	Charles Sumner Bunn (NY) golden plover (238)	72,000	69,000
3.	Charles Birch (VA) HC swan (248)	78,000	60,000
4.	Ward Bros. (MD) life-sized flying mallards (257)	54,000	36,000
5.	Attr. R.W. Davids (PA) HC sleeping pintail (303)	24,000	30,000
6.	Carriage House rig (IL) HC turned head pintail (372)	18,000	28,800
6.	Charles Schoenheider Sr. (IL) HC standing pintail (373)	36,000	28,800
8.	Noah B. Sterling (MD) wire-legged yellowlegs pair (239)	25,200	27,600
9.	A.E. Crowell (MA) "Dust Jacket" style BB plover (282)	42,000	22,800
10.	Ward Bros. (MD) standing BW teal pair, dec. (258)	31,200	22,000
11.	Ira Hudson (VA) yellowlegs (244)	24,000	19,200
12.	A.E. Crowell (MA) yellowlegs (292)	25,200	18,000
13.	A.E. Crowell (MA) willet (281)	15,000	15,600
13.	Ward Bros. (MD) feeding curlew, dec. (259)	24,000	15,600
15.	Lew Barkalow (NJ) yellowlegs (235)	15,000	13,200
16.	Charles Sumner Bunn (NY) dowitcher (245)	24,000	12,000
16.	Ward Bros. (MD) preening Canada goose, dec. (266)	18,000	12,000
18.	John McAnney (NJ) ruddy turnstone (395)	4,800	10,800
19.	Ward Bros. (MD) bluebill pair (265)	9,000	9,600
19.	Stevens Bros. (NY) mallard (374)	10,800	9,600
21.	Rowley Horner (NJ) dowitcher (287)	7,200	7,200
22.	A.E. Crowell (MA) Canada goose (304)	7,200	6,000
23.	Ben Dye (MD) redhead wooden wing duck (260)	6,000	5,700
24.	Fox rig (MA) plover (290)	2,400	5,400
25.	Seven lots tied for 25th place	6,257	4,800
TOTALS		\$ 651,257	\$579,700

Key: HC - hollow-carved BW - blue-winged dec. - decorative
BB - black-bellied

The top 25 lots (11.3% of the 222 sold) accounted for \$579,700 (71% of the \$818,680 gross) and were 11% below their total average estimate.

made estimate at \$5700. A golden plover from the Fox rig of Cape Cod, Massachusetts tripled its low estimate at \$5400.

Others decoys of note include a golden plover from Nantucket below estimate at \$4800, a black-bellied plover in spring plumage by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire, below estimate at \$4500 and a hollow-carved black duck by Charles Hart of Gloucester, Massachusetts within estimate at \$4200. A running greater yellowlegs by Thomas Gelston of Quogue, Long Island, New York fell well short at \$4200.

A hollow-carved wood duck by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia, the top contemporary waterfowl carving in the auction, sold for \$3000, exactly as estimated. The top miniatures were by George Boyd: pairs of black ducks (\$3900), mallards (\$3600) and red-breasted mergansers (\$3300).

Thanks to an impressive flock of shorebirds, and a trio of pintails, this auction achieved a strong measure of success. And roughly 90% of the lots offered found a buyer, with just 25 lots with a \$137,760 total low estimate failing to sell. The "Winter Sale" also included about 200 lots of paintings and prints in the first session, the results of which are not included in this report.

In summary, of 247 lots offered 25 failed to sell, leaving 222 lots that sold for \$818,680 for an average of \$3688 per lot and were 1% over the total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (11.3% of those sold) accounted for \$579,700 (71% of the gross) and were 11% below the total average estimate. All prices include a 20% buyer's premium. Peter J. Coccoluto served as auctioneer. 