

New Jersey decoys and contemporary decoratives among the top lots at Frank & Frank sale

TWO HOLLOW-CARVED Delaware River decoys, one a vintage gunner and the other a contemporary carving, each brought \$3450 at the Frank & Frank Sporting Collectibles auction on March 26, 2017 at the Shark River Yacht Club in Neptune, New Jersey. An early canvasback hen by Harry Fennimore of Bordentown sold to a New Jersey collector while a blue goose by Bob White of Tullytown, Pennsylvania sold to the phone, both lots selling for exactly their low estimate.

By Decoy Magazine
photos courtesy Frank & Frank
Sporting Collectibles

The majority of the top lots in this auction were either New Jersey decoys or contemporary carvings. There were five more lots by White, all making or beating estimate, including two pintails at \$1150 and \$690. A pair of his buffleheads sold for \$1093. Two miniatures, a Barnegat Bay style

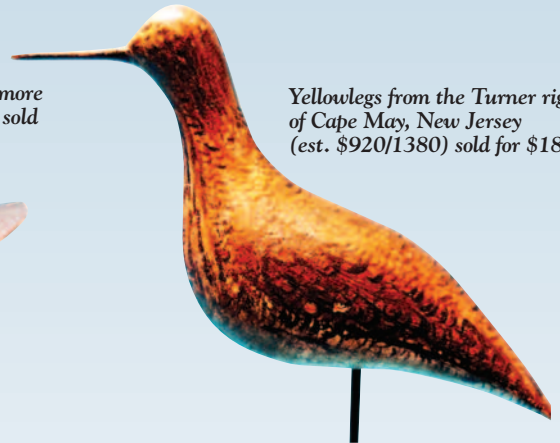
Canada goose and a Delaware River style pintail, brought \$920 and \$690.

A hollow-carved oversized black duck by Rowley Horner of West Creek was the top coastal Jersey decoy, selling to a phone bidder for \$2185, over double the low estimate. A pair of hollow-carved bluebill rigmates by Lou Barkalow of Forked River sold below estimate at \$920. A hollow-carved black duck by Walter Bush of Newark also fell short, selling for \$575.

Decoys and decoratives by Lloyd Johnson of Bay Head, New Jersey are popular at these



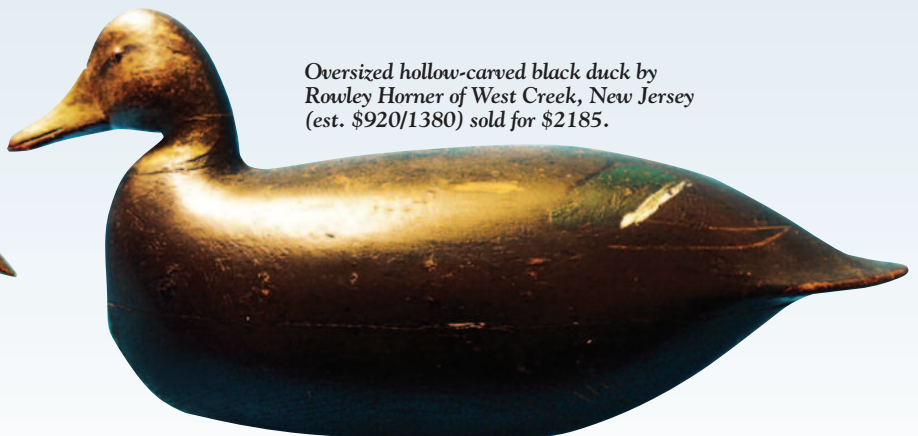
Hollow-carved canvasback hen by Harry Fennimore of Bordentown, New Jersey (est. \$3450/4600) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$3450.



Yellowlegs from the Turner rig of Cape May, New Jersey (est. \$920/1380) sold for \$1840.



Near-mint black-bellied plover by Harry Gale of Tuckerton, New Jersey (est. \$575/920) sold to a Delaware collector for \$1150.



Oversized hollow-carved black duck by Rowley Horner of West Creek, New Jersey (est. \$920/1380) sold for \$2185.



Hollow-carved blue goose by Bob White of Tullytown, New Jersey (est. \$3450/5750) sold for \$3450.

auctions, and two black ducks, a floater and a stick-up, brought \$1380 and \$805, the latter just missing estimate. A decorative full-size quail flew over estimate to \$1955.

There were two Jersey shorebirds of note: a yellowlegs from the Turner rig of Cape May, New Jersey that sold for \$1840 and a near-mint black-bellied plover by Harry Gale of Tuckerton that made \$1150, each selling for double the low estimate. A feeding black-bellied plover attributed to the Verity family of Seaford, Long Island, New York had serious condition issues, yet it still made estimate at \$2070.

The top vintage decoy from outside the state was a brant by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia that sold below estimate for \$2415. A hooded merganser by his neigh-


bor, Doug Jester, also fell short at \$1035. A pair of Premier grade canvasbacks was the best of a group by the Mason factory of Detroit, selling below estimate at \$1380.

A solid-bodied bluebill by George Warin of Toronto was the best of a group of Canadian decoys, selling well below estimate at \$978. Two more from Ontario, an oversized mallard by Billy Ellis of Whitby and a black duck by Ken Anger of Dunnville, brought \$690 and \$460, the mallard selling for half the low estimate. A redhead by Chauncey Wheeler of Alexandria Bay, New York also fell short, selling for \$719.

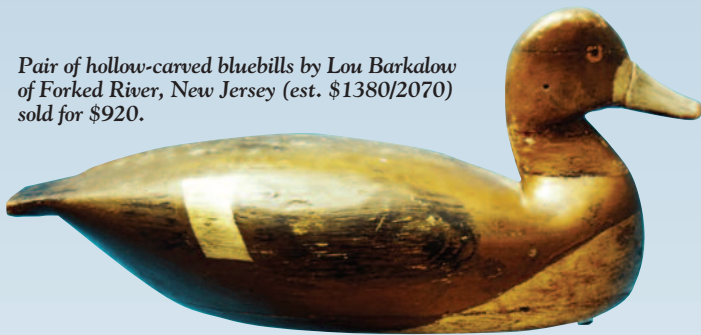
A pair of bluebills by Cigar Daisey of Chincoteague, Virginia sold for its low estimate \$920. A breast-preening yellowlegs by Bill Gibian of nearby Onancock, sold below

estimate at \$920. A pair of American mergansers by Bill Cranmer of Beach Haven, New Jersey nearly doubled its estimate at \$805 and a rare pair of his miniature ruddy ducks topped estimate at \$489.

Two lots by Carl Danos of Larose, Louisiana, a ringbill and a bluebill, brought \$748 and \$546, both well over estimate. A hollow-carved swan by Rick Brown of Point Pleasant, New Jersey brought \$575, exactly as estimated, and a pair of hollow-carved old squaw by Bob Seabrook of Absecon made estimate at \$489. A unique 1/3-sized flying Canada goose wall mount by Charlie Joiner of Chestertown, Maryland topped estimate at \$610.

The top estimated lot in the auction, a 1932 model bluebill hen by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$13,800/17,250) was one of 18 lots with a total low estimate of \$33,235 that failed to sell. In summary, 398 lots sold for \$126,558 for an average of \$319 per lot and were 7.2% below their total low estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Bill Barron served as the auctioneer. 

Pair of hollow-carved bluebills by Lou Barkalow of Forked River, New Jersey (est. \$1380/2070) sold for \$920.



Brant by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia (est. \$2875/4050) sold to a phone bidder for \$2415.



Hollow-carved black duck by Lloyd Johnson of Bayhead, New Jersey (est. \$1380/1725) sold for \$1495.



Mallard by Billy Ellis of Whitby, Ontario (est. \$1380/1725) sold for \$690.

