

# Exceedingly rare Dilley turned-head yellowlegs tops Guyette & Deeter's annual Charleston auction

By Decoy Magazine

photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

**A**RARE, POSSIBLY one-of-a-kind turned head yellowlegs by John Dilley of Quogue, Long Island, New York sold for \$40,250, nearly triple the estimate, at Guyette & Deeter's auction on February 18, 2017 at the Charleston Marriott, held in conjunction with the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. It was the top lot in an auction that was mostly comprised of Southern and contemporary decoys, with a few thrown in from other regions

for good measure.

An early pre-brand wigeon with crossed wing tips by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts sold within estimate at \$37,375. It was branded "CWW" for Charles W. Whittier, who was a member of the Swan Island Club in North Carolina. A Crowell redhead hen brought \$11,500 and a drake brought \$4600, each falling short of estimate.

A pinch-breast model pintail, one of seven lots by the Ward brothers of

Crisfield, Maryland to make the top 25 list, sold below estimate at \$20,125, likely due to a bill replacement. A near-mint balsa-bodied 1936 model green-winged teal sold within estimate at \$19,550. A 1936 model hen and a drake canvasback sold separately, the hen below estimate at \$6325 and the drake at its high estimate

*Rare turned-head yellowlegs by John Dilley of Quogue, Long Island, New York (est. \$13,800/17,250) sold for \$40,250, the top lot in the auction.*



*Balsa-bodied green-winged teal by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$16,100/20,700) sold for \$19,550.*



*Early pre-brand wigeon with crossed wingtips by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$28,750/40,250) sold for \$37,375.*



*Ruddy duck by Alvirah Wright of Duck, North Carolina (est. \$16,100/20,700) sold to a Southern dealer for \$17,250.*



\$5750. A decorative preening pintail sold under estimate at \$9775 and a pair of standing half-sized mallards made their low estimate \$7475. A pair of 1969 shooting stool model green-winged teal just missed estimate at \$7188.

A ruddy duck by Alvirah Wright of Duck, North Carolina sold within estimate to a South Carolina dealer for \$17,250. A bluebill by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island brought \$6038; formerly in the Mackey auction, it had a replaced bill and had later been repainted as a redhead. A Canada goose attributed to Gary Bragg of Ocracoke Island made estimate at \$5175.

A Canada goose by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia sold to a Virginia collector over estimate at \$8050. A "football body" style bluebill, which at one time had a hole drilled in its back for use on a lamp, made estimate at \$8050. A petite Hudson brant sold within estimate at \$5175.

A hollow-carved Canada goose by Charles Birch of Willis Wharf made estimate at \$6325. A rare pair of hooded mergansers by Miles Hancock of Chincoteague topped estimate at \$2185. There were two lots of note by his neighbor, Doug Jester: curlew with scratch feather paint at \$2875, exactly as estimated, and a large canvasback, never rigged, over estimate at \$1840.

A wigeon by George Stevens of Weedsport, New York sold just short of estimate at \$8625. A near-mint bluebill hen by Frank Coombs of Alexandria Bay made estimate at \$2128. A dowitcher from the Rogers rig of Jamaica Bay, New York made estimate at \$5750. A great gray heron by William Henry Bennett, likely made for use as a lawn ornament, sold under estimate at \$4313.

A hollow-carved black duck by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey sold below estimate at \$7475. A hollow-carved canvasback hen, carved by John



*Bluebill by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, North Carolina (est. \$4600/6900) sold for \$6038.*



*Pinch-breast pintail by the Ward brothers (est. \$23,000/34,500) sold for \$19,550.*



*Canada goose attributed to Gary Bragg of Ocracoke Island, North Carolina (est. \$4600/6900) sold for \$5175.*



*Hollow-carved Canada goose by Charles Birch of Willis Wharf, Virginia (est. \$4600/6900) sold for \$6325.*



*Canada goose by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague, Virginia (est. \$4600/6900) sold to a Virginia collector for \$8050.*

## Top 25 lots at the Guyette & Deeter auction Charleston, South Carolina, February 18, 2017

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	John Dilley (NY) turned head yellowlegs (183)	\$15,525	\$40,250
2.	A.E. Crowell (MA) wigeon (157A)	34,500	37,375
3.	Ward Bros. (MD) pinch-breast pintail (52)	28,750	20,125
4.	Ward Bros. (MD) green-winged teal, balsa (45D)	18,400	19,550
5.	Alvirah Wright (NC) ruddy duck (35)	18,400	17,250
6.	A.E. Crowell (MA) redhead hen (157B)	15,525	11,500
7.	Ward Bros. (MD) preening pintail, dec. (106)	12,650	9,775
8.	George Stevens (NY) wigeon (244A)	11,500	8,625
8.	Jim Schmiedlin (PA) HC preening canvasback (19)	7,475	8,625
8.	Oliver Lawson (MD) whistling swan (164)	6,900	8,625
11.	Ira Hudson (VA) Canada goose (71)	5,750	8,050
11.	Ira Hudson (VA) bluebill (82A)	7,475	8,050
12.	Ward Bros. (MD) half-sized standing mallard pair (107)	9,200	7,475
13.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC black duck (132)	11,500	7,475
13.	English/Dawson (NJ) HC canvasback hen (131)	15,525	7,475
13.	Ward Bros. (MD) green-winged teal pair, 1969 (219B)	9,200	7,188
16.	Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback hen, '36 model (214)	9,200	6,325
17.	Dennis Schroeder (CA) black duck (137)	2,875	6,325
17.	Charles Birch (VA) HC Canada goose (70)	5,750	6,325
20.	Mason factory (MI) Premier goldeneye (43)	5,175	6,038
20.	Lee Dudley (NC) bluebill (115)	5,750	6,038
22.	Rogers rig (NY) dowitcher (182)	6,325	5,750
22.	Dennis Schroeder (CA) old squaw pair (138)	5,750	5,750
22.	Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback, '36 model (51)	4,600	5,750
25.	Mason factory (MI) Challenge merganser (42)	8,050	5,463
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$281,750</b>	<b>\$281,177</b>

**Key:** HC - hollow-carved      dec. - decorative

The top 25 lots (9.4% of the 267 sold) accounted for \$281,277 (48.2% of the \$583,644 gross) and was .2% below their total average estimate.

English of Florence and painted by John Dawson of Trenton, also brought \$7475, less than half the average estimate. A pair of hollow redheads by Bill Quinn of Yardley, Pennsylvania brought \$2875, exactly half the average estimate.

A Premier grade goldeneye by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit sold within estimate at \$6038. A Challenge grade merganser fell short at \$5463. A rigmate pair of wood ducks by Ken Anger of Dunnville, Ontario made estimate at \$3738 and a competition grade redhead just missed at \$1725. A half-sized flying mallard by Mark Whipple of Raceland, Louisiana sold for \$2185, less than half the average estimate.

A hollow-carved sleeping oversized canvasback by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania, one of four contemporary lots on the top 25 list, sold within estimate at \$8625. A whistling swan by Oliver Lawson of Crisfield, Maryland topped estimate at \$8625. A highly decorative black duck by Dennis Schroeder of Trinity Alps, California more than doubled the estimate at \$6325 and a pair of old squaws brought \$5750, exactly as estimated.

Other contemporary lots of note include two by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia: pair of blue-winged teal at \$2875 and pair of hollow-carved red-breasted mergansers at 2530, both lots making estimate. A hollow-carved gadwall by Cameron McIntyre of New Church, Virginia made estimate at \$2588.

This unreserved auction with its emphasis on Southern decoys and contemporary decoratives seemed well-designed for this audience, as only five lots in the auction failed to sell. There were also about 15 lots of paintings and prints, but they are not included in our totals.

In summary, of 272 lots offered five failed to sell, leaving 267 lots that sold for \$583,644 for average of \$2146 per lot and were 4.8% over their total low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (9.4% of those sold) accounted for \$281,277 (48.2% of the gross) and were .2% below their total average estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Larry Carter served as auctioneer.



Hollow-carved canvasback hen carved by John English of Florence, New Jersey and painted by John Dawson of Trenton (est. \$13,800/17,250) sold for \$7475.



Wigeon by George Stevens of Weedsport, New York (est. \$9200/13,800) sold for \$8625.



Oversized sleeping canvasback by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania (est. \$5750/9200) sold for \$8625.