

## Extremely rare Ward brothers ruddy duck brings top dollar at Frank & Frank auction

**A**N EXTREMELY RARE ruddy duck by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold below estimate to a Maryland collector for \$22,425, the top lot at the Frank & Frank Sporting Collectibles auction on October 16, 2016 at the Shark River Yacht Club in Neptune, New Jersey. Slightly oversized and never used as a decoy, it had been mounted as a decorative carving on a lamp.

An early hollow-carved black duck from the Philadelphia area sold to a phone bidder for \$3738, over ten times the low estimate and the top Delaware River decoy in the sale. Equally as surprising, a hollow-carved brant in old gunning paint by Charles Black of Bordentown, New Jersey brought \$2160, six times the high estimate. A hollow-carved pintail in old gunning paint by Bill Quinn of Bristol, Pennsylvania made estimate at 748. A hollow-carved goldeneye by Caleb "Reg" Marter sold below estimate for

By Decoy Magazine

Photos courtesy Frank & Frank Auctions

\$690. And a pair of hollow-carved low head pintails by Bob White of Tullytown, Pennsylvania fell short of estimate at \$1150.

A black-bellied plover with a fanciful paint pattern by an unknown maker, from the Turner rig, sold for \$2990, more than double the low estimate and the top coastal New Jersey decoy in the sale. A yellowlegs from the same rig sold for \$1380. A robin snipe attributed to Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, but more likely by his neighbor Nate Frazier, sold for \$978.

A near-mint hollow-carved black duck by Capt. Jesse Birdsall of Barnegat sold for its low estimate \$1725. A hollow-carved mallard by John Updike of Green Bank made estimate at \$978. A pair of hollow-carved red-breasted mergansers by Gene

Hendrickson of Lower Bank just missed estimate at \$546.

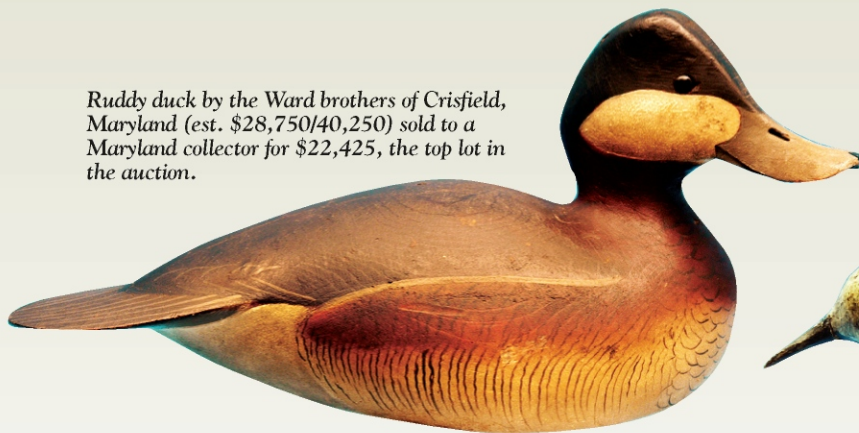
A rare hollow-carved gunning model wigeon by Lloyd Johnson of Bay Head, New Jersey sold over estimate at \$2160. A Lloyd Johnson dove topped estimate at \$1840 and one of his standing black ducks just missed at \$863. A hollow-carved pintail was the best of a group of decoys by Hurley Conklin of Manahawkin, topping estimate at \$489. And a pair of hollow-carved wood ducks by Charlie Birdsall of Point Pleasant brought \$460, exactly half the low estimate.

A pair of hooded mergansers was the best of a group of lots by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey, selling to a phone bidder for \$2760, exactly double the low estimate. Others included a pair of red-breasted mergansers within estimate at \$1955, pair of ruddy ducks at double the low estimate at \$1150 and pair of blue-bills at more than double the low estimate at \$978. A coot topped estimate at \$604.

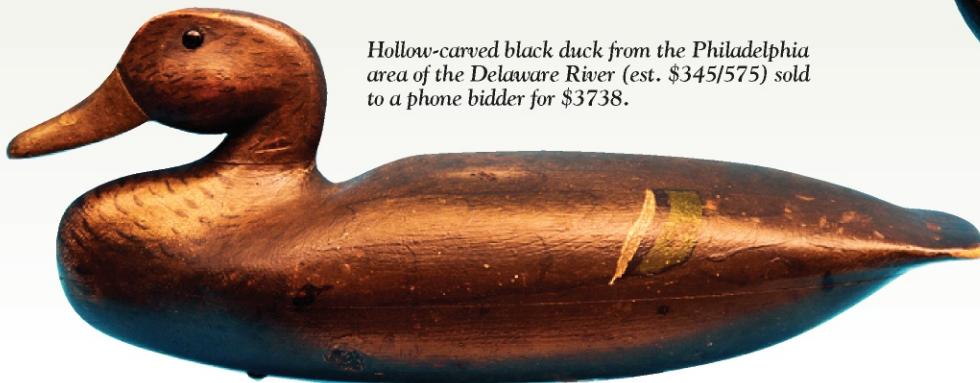
A pair of wigeons with uplifted preened feathers and raised carved wingtips by Bill Gibian of Onancock, Virginia made estimate at \$2665. A pair of his pintails, the drake a preener, sold for its low estimate \$1380. A ruddy turnstone standing on a base and two black-bellied plovers, one a feeder, brought \$920 apiece. A sleeping canvasback by Reggie Birch of Chincoteague made estimate at \$633.

An early red-breasted merganser hen by Miles Hancock of Chincoteague, Virginia

*Ruddy duck by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$28,750/40,250) sold to a Maryland collector for \$22,425, the top lot in the auction.*



*Hollow-carved black duck from the Philadelphia area of the Delaware River (est. \$345/575) sold to a phone bidder for \$3738.*



*Black-bellied plover from the Turner rig of southern New Jersey (est. \$1380/2070) brought \$2990.*







*Hollow-carved brant by Charles Black of Bordentown, New Jersey (est. \$230/345) sold for \$2160.*




*Pair of hooded mergansers by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey of Chincoteague, Virginia (est. \$1380/1725) sold to a phone bidder for \$2760.*



*Hollow-carved wigeon by Lloyd Johnson of Bay Head, New Jersey (est. \$1380/1725) sold for \$2160.*

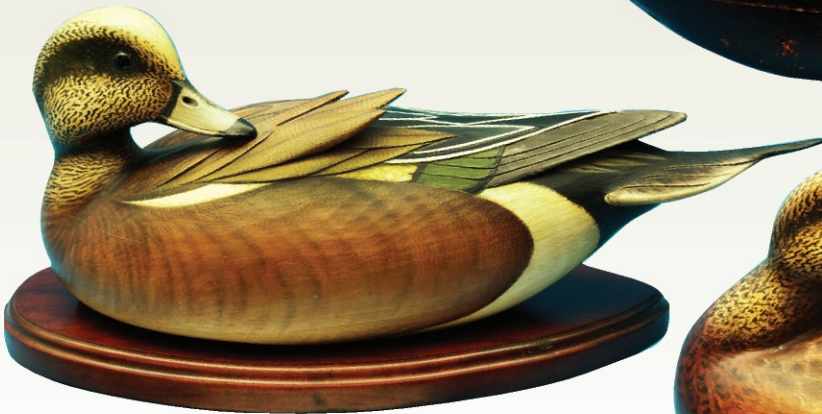
made estimate at \$863. A wigeon in old gunning paint by Ned Burgess of Churches Island, North Carolina brought \$1150, five times the low estimate. A coot by George Waterfield of Knotts Island topped estimate at \$633. A coot by James Rowe, also from Knotts Island, sold well above estimate at \$575. A pair of redheads by Charlie Joiner of Chestertown, Maryland made its low estimate \$575.

A Challenge grade black duck by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit, with the Challenge stamp still on its bottom, fell short of estimate at \$690. A pair of hollow-carved mallards in old gunning paint by Charles Perdeu of Henry, Illinois brought \$690, double the low estimate. A black duck by Robert Mittlestadt of Buffalo, New York sold to a Maryland collector below estimate at \$489.

In summary, of 412 lots offered 22 failed to sell, leaving 390 lots that sold for \$139,558 for an average of \$358 per lot and were 8.4% below their low estimate after deducting the low estimate of the unsold lots. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Bill Barron served as auctioneer. 



*Hollow-carved black duck by Capt. Jesse Birdsall of Barnegat, New Jersey (est. \$1725/2875) sold to a New Jersey collector for \$1725.*



*Pair of wigeon by Bill Gibian of Onancock, Virginia (est. \$2300/3450) brought \$2645.*

