

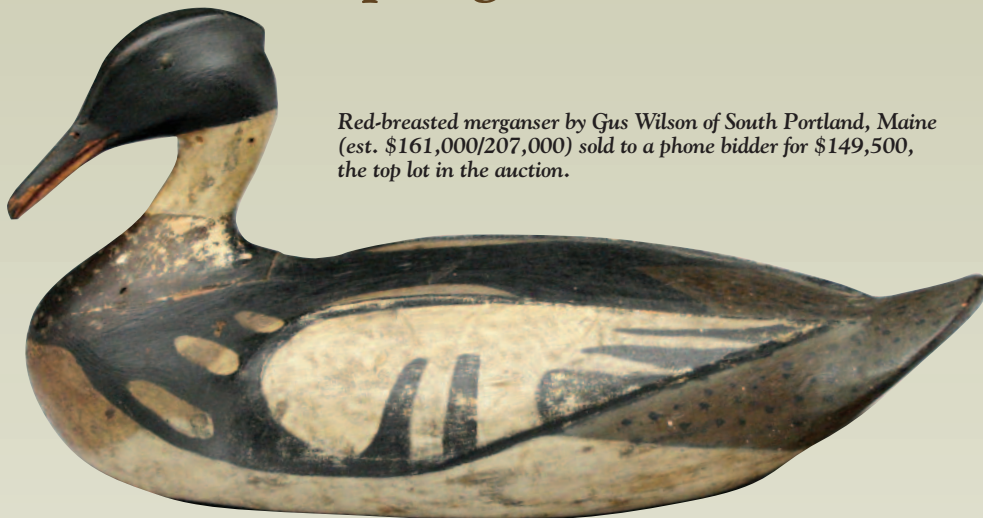
Strong selection of Midwest decoys leads the surge at Guyette & Deeter's annual spring auction

By Decoy Magazine

photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

AN OVERSIZED Monhegan Island style red-breasted merganser by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine sold just under estimate to a phone bidder for \$149,500 at Guyette & Deeter's annual spring auction at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Illinois. It was the top lot in an auction where Midwest decoys otherwise led the surge, accounting for seven of the top ten lots in the sale and 16 of the top 27 (three lots tied for 25th place).

An early running sanderling with carved primaries by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts came in second, flying past estimate to a phone bidder at \$80,500. A rig-mate with a replaced bill and repair to a small chip at the wingtips sold over estimate to a Maryland collector for \$34,500.



Red-breasted merganser by Gus Wilson of South Portland, Maine (est. \$161,000/207,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$149,500, the top lot in the auction.

Hollow-carved decoys from the Illinois River accounted for eight lots on the top 25 list, including two by Robert Elliston of Bureau: rare green-winged teal within estimate at \$48,300 and full-bodied bluebill over estimate at \$43,125. There were four lots by

Charles Perdew of Henry, all from the collection of the late Joe French: green-winged teal at \$37,950, canvasback hen and drake at \$37,950 and \$23,000 and pair of pintails at \$25,300, the first two topping estimate and the latter two falling short.

A preening mallard hen by Bert Graves of Peoria sold over estimate to a phone bidder



Hollow-carved preening mallard hen by Bert Graves of Peoria, Illinois (est. \$23,000/28,750) sold to a phone bidder for \$33,350.

Hollow-carved bluebill by Robert Elliston (est. \$34,500/40,250) sold to a phone bidder for \$43,125.



Hollow-carved green-winged teal by Robert Elliston of Bureau, Illinois (est. \$40,250/51,750) brought \$48,300.





Hollow-carved green-winged teal by Charles Perdew of Henry, Illinois (est. \$17,250/23,000) brought \$37,950.



Running sanderling by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$46,000/57,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$80,500.



Pair of mallards by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin (est. \$17,250/23,000) brought \$20,700.

at \$33,350. Also of note, a Graves black duck fell just short at \$12,650. A mallard by Charles Walker of Princeton tied for 25th place on the list, selling for \$18,400, exactly as estimated.

An extremely rare pair of hollow-carved mallards in near mint condition by Nate Quillin of Rockville was the top Michigan lot on the list, selling just over estimate to a Tennessee collector at \$43,125. Also of note, a decorative old squaw by Tom Schroeder of Detroit nearly doubled its estimate to a phone bidder at \$14,950.



There were four lots by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit in the top 25, topped by a rare Premier wood duck hen that sold within estimate to a phone bidder for \$40,825. A sickle billed curlew with an unusual reaching attitude just missed estimate at \$24,150. A Premier pintail topped estimate at \$21,850 and a pair of Premier "double blue" blue-winged teal fell short at \$18,400. Others of note include a pair of Premier mallards from the D.B. Day rig within estimate at \$14,950 and a pair of Standard grade green-winged teal at more than double the estimate at \$11,213.



Hollow-carved canvasback hen by Charles Perdew (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold to a Minnesota collector for \$37,950.

A pair of tucked head mallards with carved crossed wingtips by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin was the best from the Badger State, selling within estimate at \$20,700. A pair of rigmate canvasbacks by his Stoughton neighbor, Ferd Homme, just fell short at \$10,350. A rare long-neck pintail hen by an unknown maker from the Grand Kankakee Marsh in Indiana sold for its low estimate \$46,000.



Premier wood duck hen by the Mason decoy factory of Detroit (est. \$40,250/51,750) sold to a phone bidder for \$40,825.

Pair of hollow-carved mallards by Nate Quillin of Rockville, Michigan (est. \$28,750/40,250) sold to a Tennessee collector for \$43,125.



Top 25 lots at the Guyette, Schmidt & Deeter auction St. Charles, Illinois, April 21-22, 2016

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	Gus Wilson (ME) red-breasted merganser (398)	\$184,000	\$149,500
2.	A.E. Crowell (MA) running sanderling (208)	51,750	80,500
3.	Robert Elliston (IL) HC green-winged teal (418)	46,000	48,300
4.	Unknown (IN) long-necked pintail hen (512)	57,500	46,000
5.	Robert Elliston (IL) HC bluebill (419)	37,375	43,125
5.	Nate Quillin (MI) HC mallard pair (125)	34,500	43,125
7.	Mason factory (MI) Premier wood duck hen (9)	46,000	40,825
8.	George Boyd (NH) blue-winged teal (427A)	43,125	40,250
9.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC green-winged teal (414)	20,125	37,950
10.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC canvasback hen (27)	23,000	37,950
11.	Lee Dudley (NC) canvasback (47)	23,000	35,650
12.	A.E. Crowell (MA) running sanderling (213)	25,875	34,500
12.	Oscar Peterson (MI) pike plaque (179)	46,000	34,500
14.	Bert Graves (IL) HC preening mallard hen (155)	25,875	33,350
15.	Ward Bros. (MD) green-winged teal (82)	34,500	31,625
15.	Charles S. Bunn (NY) greater yellowlegs (453)	28,750	31,625
17.	Ward Bros. (MD) green-winged teal hen (83)	37,375	25,875
18.	Ward Bros. (MD) "pinch breast" pintail (100)	28,750	25,300
18.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC pintail pair (146)	40,250	25,300
20.	Mason factory (MI) sickle billed curlew (160)	28,750	24,150
21.	Shang Wheeler (CT) brant (424)	13,800	23,000
22.	Mason factory (MI) Premier pintail (1)	17,250	21,850
22.	Horace Crandall (CA) mallard pair (58)	10,063	21,850
24.	Enoch Reindahl (WI) mallard pair (404)	20,125	20,700
#25.	Three lots tied for 25th place	23,383	18,400
TOTALS		\$947,121	\$975,200

#Mason factory (MI) Premier blue-winged teal pair (2) 28,750
 #Charles Perdew (IL) HC canvasback (26) 23,000
 #Ward Bros. (MD) mallard, 1936 model (470) 18,400

Key: HC - hollow-carved

The top 25 lots (4.5% of the 550 sold) accounted for \$975,200 (45.4% of the \$2,147,884 gross) and were 3% over their total average estimate.

From New England, a rare blue-winged teal by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire sold to a phone bidder at its low estimate \$40,250. A rare cedar brant by Shang Wheeler of Stratford, Connecticut, formerly in the collection of the Audubon Society's Birdcraft Museum in Fairfield, Connecticut, doubled its low estimate at \$23,000. Also of note, a redhead by Keyes Chadwick of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts made estimate at \$12,650 and a sleeping redhead by Albert Laing of Stratford, Connecticut just missed at \$9775.

A greater yellowlegs in an alert pose by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, Long Island, New York, formerly and still attributed by many collectors (including the auction house) as the work of Bill Bowman, sold within estimate to a phone bidder at \$31,625. Also of note, from Upstate New York, a pintail hen by George Stevens of Weedsport sold over estimate at \$14,950.

A pair of 1942 model green-winged teal by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland sold separately, the drake at its low estimate \$31,626 and the hen to a South Carolina dealer below estimate at \$25,875. A Ward pinch breast pintail from California's White Mallard Gun Club made estimate at \$25,300. A decorative back preening Canada goose sold for its low estimate \$13,800.

A club model canvasback with some neck repair by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, North Carolina sold well over estimate to a phone bidder at \$35,650. A pair of mallards by Horace Crandall of San Francisco, California was the only West Coast decoy on the top 25 list, selling to a phone bidder for over double the estimate at \$21,850. A Crandall pintail topped estimate at \$12,075.

A pair of oversized bluebills by Orel LeBoeuf of Anicet, Quebec was the best of the Canadian decoys, flying by estimate to \$12,650. A rare rigrate pair of canvasbacks from Harsens Island also topped estimate, selling for \$12,650. A rare hollow-carved



Pair of mallards by Horace Crandall of San Francisco, California (est. \$8625/11,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$21,850.

Greater yellowlegs by Charles Sumner Bunn of Southampton, New York (est. \$23,000/34,500) sold to a phone bidder for \$31,625.




Fish plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan (est. \$40,250/51,750) brought \$34,500.

hooded merganser hen by William Chrysler of Belleville, Ontario sold over estimate at \$11,150.

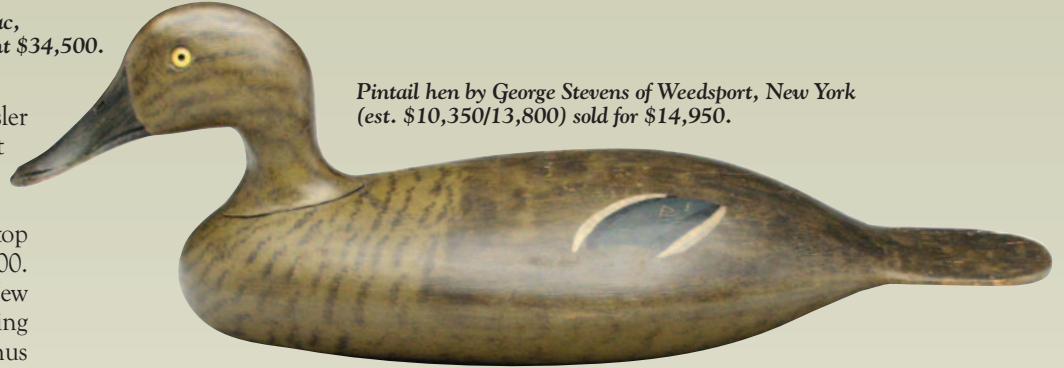
A 42-inch pike plaque by Oscar Peterson of Cadillac, Michigan also made the top 25 list, selling short of estimate at \$34,500. Two fish decoys from Lake Chautauqua, New York were the best of a group of spearing decoys: trout by Harry Seymour of Bemus Point at its high estimate \$13,800 and generic fish by Ed Irwin at \$12,650.

A pair of decorative shovelers, the best of a group by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania, sold well above estimate at \$14,375. A life size hanging game carving of a black duck and a gadwall by Cameron McIntyre of New Church, Virginia just missed estimate at \$10,350.

While this auction was greatly fueled by the Midwest decoys that dominated the sale, there were just enough stars from other regions to appeal to a broad array of collectors. In addition to the one six-figure decoy in the auction, 46 additional lots topped \$10,000 or more. Of those offered, 56 lots with a \$414,863 total low estimate failed to sell. This report does not include the paintings and posters that sold in the auction, which grossed roughly \$600,000.

In summary, of 606 lots offered 56 failed to sell, leaving 550 lots that sold for \$2,147,884 for an average of \$3905 per lot and were 5.9% over the total low estimate after deducting the estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (4.5% of the total sold) accounted for \$975,200 (45.4% of the gross) and were 3% over their total average estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Jim Julia served as auctioneer. 

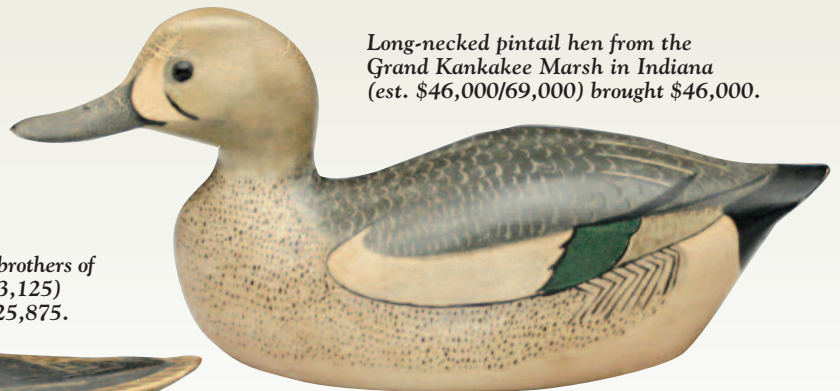
Pintail hen by George Stevens of Weedsport, New York (est. \$10,350/13,800) sold for \$14,950.



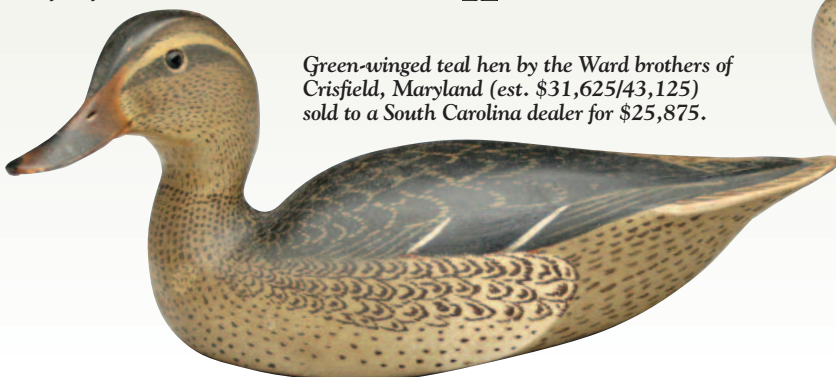
Canvasback by Lee Dudley of Knotts Island, North Carolina (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold to a phone bidder for \$35,650.



Long-necked pintail hen from the Grand Kankakee Marsh in Indiana (est. \$46,000/69,000) brought \$46,000.



Green-winged teal hen by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$31,625/43,125) sold to a South Carolina dealer for \$25,875.



Blue-winged teal by George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire (est. \$40,250/46,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$40,250.