

Massachusetts decoys drive the totals at Guyette & Deeter's summer sale

By Decoy Magazine
Photos courtesy Guyette & Deeter

A ONE-OF-A-KIND sleeping Canada goose by Charles Safford of Newburyport, Massachusetts sold to a Connecticut folk art dealer within estimate at \$517,500 at Guyette & Deeter's annual summer auction on July 25-26, 2017 at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. This magnificent sculpture was the top lot in the auction and an auction price record for its maker. The success of this sale was largely dependent on a select group of Massachusetts decoys, as the top four lots and 11 of the top 25 hailed from the Bay State.

An old squaw by Joe Lincoln of Accord also reached six figures, selling to a phone bidder well over estimate at \$143,750. A Lincoln green-winged teal, used as an illustration for the Massachu-



Sleeping Canada goose by Charles Safford of Newburyport, Massachusetts (est. \$460,000/690,000) sold to a Connecticut dealer for \$517,500, the top lot in the auction and an auction price record for its maker.

setts 2003 Waterfowl Stamp, also sold to the phone, topping estimate at \$74,750.

A decorative yellowlegs with its wings lifted in a landing pose was one of seven lots by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich to make the top 25 list, selling over esti-

mate at \$47,150. Other full-sized decoys included a preening greater yellowlegs, over estimate at \$28,750, a rare snipe, within estimate at \$20,700, and a kingfisher with a fish in its bill, within estimate at \$12,650. A miniature flying

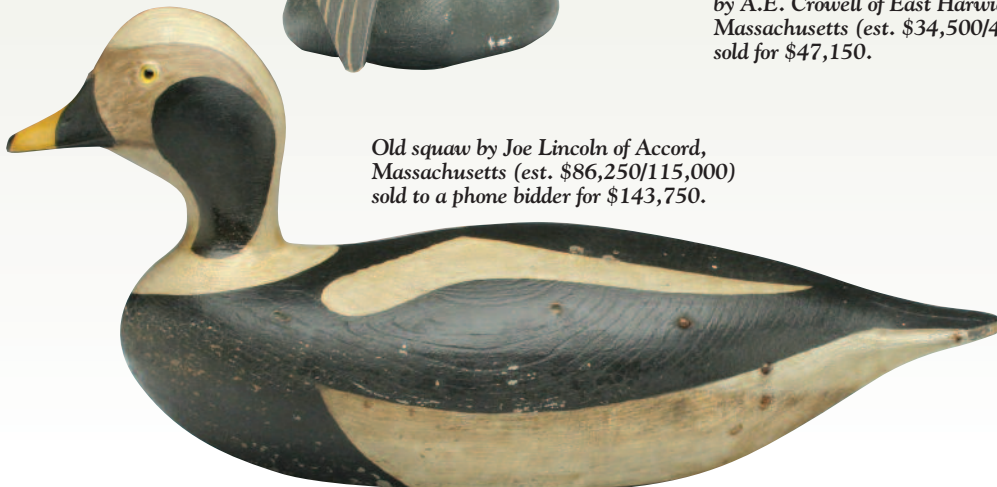
Miniature flying black duck by A.E. Crowell (est. \$11,500/16,100) sold to a phone bidder for \$15,525.

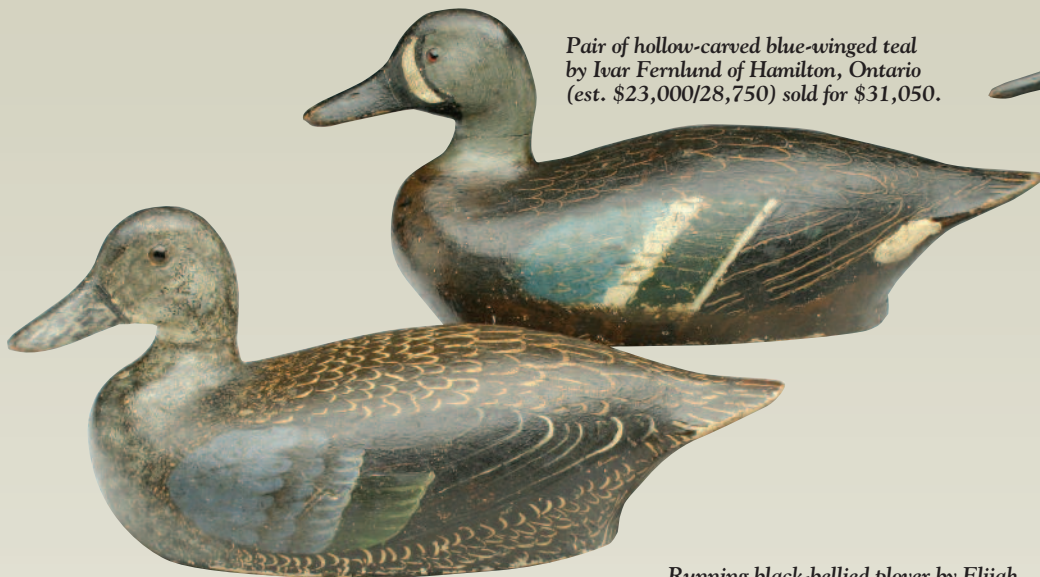


Rare yellowlegs with lifted wings by A.E. Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts (est. \$34,500/40,250) sold for \$47,150.



Old squaw by Joe Lincoln of Accord, Massachusetts (est. \$86,250/115,000) sold to a phone bidder for \$143,750.





Pair of hollow-carved blue-winged teal by Ivar Fernlund of Hamilton, Ontario (est. \$23,000/28,750) sold for \$31,050.



Robin snipe by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold to a left bid of \$20,125.

black duck on a wooden base, the only miniature we've ever seen with an oval stamp, sold within estimate to a phone bidder at \$15,525.

A Crowell wood duck with an oval brand, apparently used as a door stop due to its recessed weight, sold over estimate at \$18,400. A goldeneye with an oval stamp, also never rigged or used, fell short of estimate at \$11,500.

A plump, full-bodied running black-bellied plover in transitional plumage by Elijah Burr of Hingham, Massachusetts sold for \$17,250, nearly double its estimate. Also of note, a curlew from Duxbury, attributed to Gordon Fox, sold below estimate at \$10,925.

A rare pair of hollow-carved blue-winged teal by Ivar Fernlund of Hamilton was one of four Ontario lots on the top 25 list, selling just over estimate at \$31,050. A hollow-carved Canada goose by Phineas Reeves of Port Rowan sold below estimate to a phone bidder for \$14,950. A hollow-carved lowhead canvasback by George Warin of Toronto sold within estimate at \$11,500. A pair of hollow-carved redheads from the Markham rig just missed estimate at \$14,950.

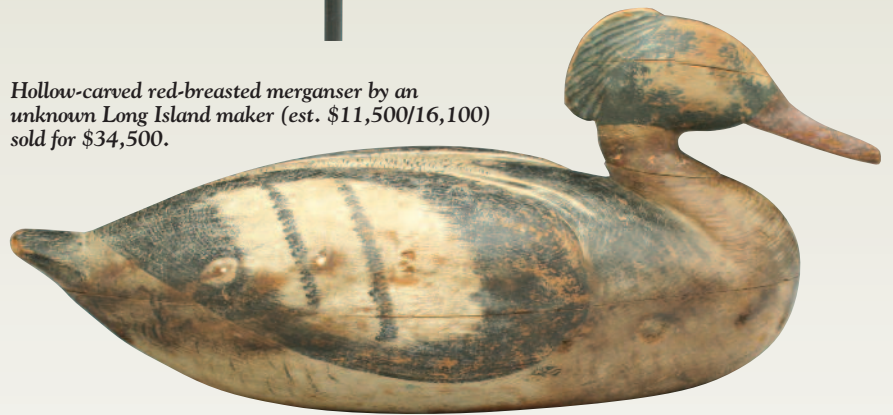
An early hollow-carved red-breasted merganser by an unidentified Long Island maker captured the attention of a couple of bidders who drove the price to \$34,500, three times the low estimate.

A robin snipe in spring plumage by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey sold at its low estimate \$20,125 to an absentee bidder. A Shourds hollow-carved red-breasted merganser hen fell well short of estimate at \$12,650. A curlew by Dan Lake Leeds of Pleasantville brought \$13,800 and a robin snipe, also by his hand, sold for \$9200; both lots sold short of estimate to

Running black-bellied plover by Elijah Burr of Hingham, Massachusetts (est. \$7475/10,925) sold for \$17,250.



Hollow-carved red-breasted merganser by an unknown Long Island maker (est. \$11,500/16,100) sold for \$34,500.

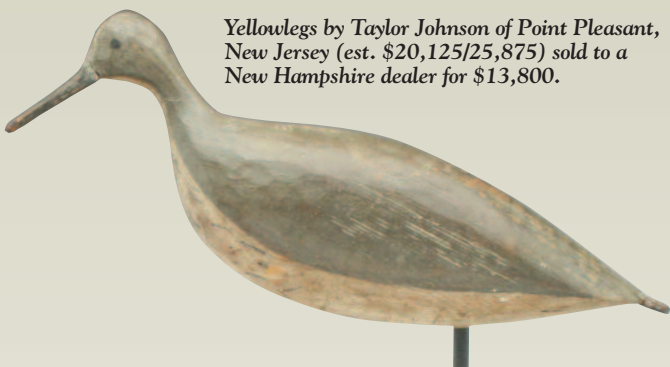


Hollow-carved pair of Ontario redheads from the Markham rig (est. \$16,100/20,700) sold for \$14,950.





Rare muskie spear fishing decoy from Lake Chautauqua, New York (est. \$9200/13,800) sold to a Massachusetts collector for \$12,075.



Yellowlegs by Taylor Johnson of Point Pleasant, New Jersey (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold to a New Hampshire dealer for \$13,800.



Canvasback by Ferdinand Bach of Detroit, Michigan (est. \$17,250/23,000) sold for \$25,875.

Top 25 lots at the Guyette & Deeter auction Portsmouth, New Hampshire, July 25-26, 2017

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
*1.	Charles Safford (MA) sleeping Canada goose (89)	\$575,000	\$517,500
2.	Joe Lincoln (MA) old squaw (395)	100,625	143,750
3.	Joe Lincoln (MA) green-winged teal (397)	57,500	74,750
4.	A.E. Crowell (MA) lifted wings yellowlegs, dec. (349)	37,750	47,150
5.	Long Island (NY) red-breasted merganser (230)	13,800	34,500
6.	Ivar Fernlund (ONT) HC blue-winged teal pair (391)	25,875	31,050
7.	A.E. Crowell (MA) preening yellowlegs, dec. (352)	23,000	28,750
8.	Ferdinand Bach (MI) canvasback (141)	20,125	25,875
9.	A.E. Crowell (MA) snipe, dec. (243)	20,125	20,700
10.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) robin snipe (243)	23,000	20,125
11.	A.E. Crowell (MA) wood duck, oval brand (114)	13,800	18,400
12.	Elijah Burr (MA) running black-bellied plover (499)	9,200	17,250
13.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini flying black duck (1)	13,800	15,525
14.	Markham rig (ONT) HC redhead pair (272)	18,400	14,950
14.	Phineas Reeves (ONT) HC Canada goose (387)	23,000	14,950
14.	Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback hen, 1936 model (524)	23,000	14,950
17.	Dan Lake Leeds (NJ) curlew (26)	16,675	13,800
17.	Taylor Johnson (NJ) yellowlegs (379)	23,000	13,800
17.	Charles Walker (IL) HC pintail (424)	15,525	13,800
20.	A.E. Crowell (MA) kingfisher (242)	12,075	12,650
20.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC red-breasted merganser hen (79)	20,125	12,650
20.	Enoch Reindahl (WI) sleeping black duck (416)	20,125	12,650
23.	Lake Chautauqua (NY) muskie spear fishing decoy (56)	11,500	12,075
23.	Frank Kuss (MI) trout spear fishing decoy (49)	6,900	12,075
#25.	Two lots tied for 25th place	14,088	11,500
TOTALS		\$1,138,013	\$1,155,175
	#George Warin (ONT) HC lowhead canvasback (40)	12,650	
	#A.E. Crowell (MA) goldeneye (113)	15,525	

Key: HC – hollow-carved dec. – decorative * auction price record by maker

The top 25 lots (5.3% of the 476 sold) accounted for \$1,155,175 (54.3% of the \$2,128,190 gross) and were 1.5% over their total average estimate.

New Jersey collectors. A yellowlegs by Taylor Johnson of Point Pleasant sold to a New Hampshire dealer well below estimate at \$13,800.

A 1936 model canvasback hen with its head turned approximately 45 degrees to the right by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland, the only Southern decoy on the top 25 list, fell well short of estimate at \$14,950. We particularly liked an early Ward turned head bluebill that sold over estimate to a Maryland collector for \$8050.

A canvasback by Ferdinand Bach of Detroit, Michigan was the top Midwest decoy, selling over estimate at \$25,875. A hollow-carved pintail by Charles Walker of Princeton, Illinois sold for its low estimate at \$13,800. A pair of hollow-carved pintails by Charlie Perdew of Henry, Illinois just missed estimate at \$9775. A sleeping black duck by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin sold well short of estimate at \$12,650.

An unusual redhead with an open bill and visible tongue by Alain MacDonald of Verdun, Quebec sold to a phone bidder at \$8050, double the high estimate. A rare wood duck hen by Orel LeBoeuf of St. Anicet made estimate at \$5175.

A pair of bluebills by Dick Janson of Sonoma Creek, California sold to a west coast collector within estimate at \$9775. The same bidder bought a shoveler hen by John Tornberg of San Francisco at its low estimate \$9200.

A swimming Canada goose by Ira Hudson of Chincoteague was the top Virginia decoy, selling within estimate at \$8625.

A golden plover by Chauncey Wheeler of Alexandria Bay, New York, one of a set of six made in the 1920s, sold short of estimate at \$8050.

A muskie spear fishing decoy from Lake



Redhead with open bill by Alain MacDonald of Verdun, Quebec (est. \$2875/4025) sold to a phone bidder for \$8050, an auction price record for its maker.



Pair of bluebills by Dick Janson of Sonoma Creek, California (est. \$9200/13,800) sold to a California collector for \$10,925.




Sleeping black duck by Enoch Reindahl of Stoughton, Wisconsin (est. \$17,250/23,000) sold for \$12,650.

Chautauqua, New York sold to a Massachusetts collector within estimate at \$12,075. A trout spear fishing decoy by Frank Kuss of St. Clair Shores, Michigan more than doubled the low estimate at \$12,075.

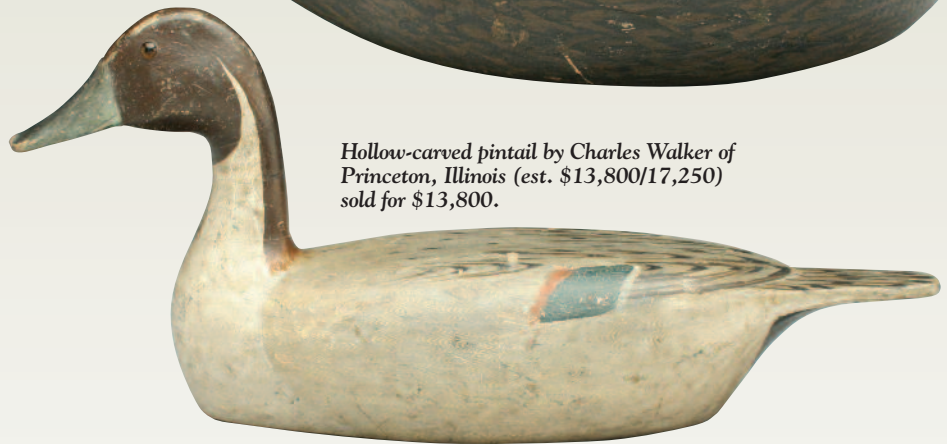
Two unusual species by Jim Schmiedlin of Bradfordwoods, Pennsylvania, a fulvous tree duck and black-bellied tree duck, brought the top price for a contemporary decoy, selling for \$5175 apiece, exactly as estimated. A hollow-carved loon by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia sold over estimate at \$2875.

The success in this auction was largely dependent on one major consignment, which produced the top three lots in the sale, the Safford goose and Lincoln old squaw and green-winged teal. Together they accounted for \$736,000, nearly 35% of the entire proceeds. There were also strong contributions from Ontario and New Jersey. In all, there were 28 lots that sold for \$10,000 or more, of which two made six figures. There were 61 lots with a combined \$417,048 total low estimate that failed to sell.

In summary, of 537 decoy lots offered 61 failed to sell, leaving 476 lots that sold for \$2,218,190 for an average of \$4471 per lot and were 2.7% over their total low estimate. The top 25 lots (5.3% of those sold) accounted for \$1,155,175 (54.3% of the gross) and were 1.5% over their total average estimate. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Jim Julia served as auctioneer. 



Hollow-carved pintail by Charles Walker of Princeton, Illinois (est. \$13,800/17,250) sold for \$13,800.



Canvasback hen by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland (est. \$20,125/25,875) sold for \$14,950.

