

Lawson swan tops Barfield's "Sportsman's Auction"

A WHISTLING SWAN by Oliver Lawson of Crisfield, Maryland sold for \$5500, the top lot at Zeb Barfield's mid-winter "Sportsman's Sale" held on February 24-25, 2017 at their auction gallery in Hallwood, Virginia. Other Lawsons included a pair of Ward brothers-style redheads at \$2200, a pair of bluebills at \$1320 and a black duck at \$1210. A wigeon by Lloyd Sterling, signed and dated 1959, sold for \$908.

A Virginia plover, possibly by Dave "Umbrella" Watson, was the top vintage decoy in the auction, selling for \$3300. A Virginia plover, formerly in the Mackey collection, brought \$1320 and a yellowlegs by Joe Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts, sold for \$770.

A black duck by Doug Jester of Chincoteague, Virginia brought \$990. A red-breasted merganser hen and a canvasback by his neighbor, Miles Hancock, sold for \$743 and \$688. A rare bufflehead with traces of paint remaining by Charles Birch of Willis Wharf sold for \$688.

There were decoys and decorative carvings by Delbert "Cigar" Daisy of Chincoteague, including a coot at \$770 and a pair of ruddy ducks that sold separately, the drake at \$660 and the hen for \$605. There were two curlews by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia, and they sold for \$1870 and \$990.

There were two hollow-carved New Jersey decoys of note, and both were made in Point Pleasant: bluebill by Eugene Birdsall at \$1100 and a redhead by Taylor Johnson at \$715. The top lot by George Strunk of Glendora was a pair of hollow-carved green-winged teal at \$561.

A pair of canvasbacks by Henry Lockard of Elk Neck, Maryland, painted by Paul Gibson of Havre de Grace, sold separately, the drake at \$825 and the hen for \$504. A pair of flat-bottomed canvasbacks by Charlie Joiner of Chestertown, Maryland brought \$880. A pair of canvasbacks by Madison Mitchell of Havre de Grace brought \$550.

A Premier grade mallard hen by the Mason decoy factory sold for \$1100. A miniature mallard by Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts brought \$880.

A standing decorative pintail by Larry Tawes of Salisbury, Maryland sold for \$1100. Two lots by Bob Moreland of Onancock, Virginia, a swan and great blue heron, brought \$770 and \$660.

Barfield holds three "Sportsman's Auctions" a year, offering a selection of vintage and contemporary decoys, firearms, oyster



Whistling swan by Oliver Lawson of Crisfield, Maryland sold for \$5500, the top lot in the auction.



Hollow bluebill by Eugene Birdsall of Point Pleasant, New Jersey brought \$1100.



A Virginia plover, possibly by Dave "Umbrella" Watson, sold for \$3300.



Bunn-style curlew by Mark McNair of Craddockville, Virginia sold for \$1870.



Canvasback by Henry Lockard of Elk Neck, Maryland, in Paul Gibson paint, sold for \$825.

collectibles, sporting art and miscellaneous hunting and fishing-related collectibles. Between the two days of sales, he offered over 400 lots to online bidders and hundreds of other items that were available only to those in attendance. Barfield's actually used four different auctioneers to move all the items.

Quite a number of dealers use this as an opportunity to add inventory, and many beginning collectors view it as a venue to purchase affordable decoys. The best part of this

sale is that one never knows what non-cataloged items might end up for bargain prices on the tables. No estimates are established and none of the items are sold with a reserve. All prices include a 10% buyer's premium.

At the end of the sale on Saturday, Barfield's offered a complimentary pig roast with beans and cole slaw. Most of those in attendance took the opportunity to have a bite to eat before hitting the road. 