

◆ FRANK & FRANK AUCTION ◆

Shourds black duck makes double high estimate selling for \$69,000 at New Jersey decoy auction

A SUPERB HOLLOW-CARVED black duck in near-mint original paint and excellent structural condition, its only mar a slight tail chip, by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey was by far the top lure at the annual fall decoy auction by Frank & Frank Sporting Collectibles held on Sunday, October 30, 2005 at the Taylor Pavilion on the beach in Belmar, New Jersey. Carrying a high estimate of \$34,500, the bidding quickly rose, with three floor bidders still in the running as it topped \$50,000, finally hammering for \$69,000 to a New Jersey collector. It was the highest price ever paid for a Shourds duck decoy and the only lot in the auction to top \$10,000.

Other New Jersey Decoys

Two other hollow-carved coastal New

by Joe Engers
photos courtesy Frank & Frank

Jersey decoys made the top 25 list: an extremely rare mallard by Henry Kilpatrick of Barnegat with minor condition problems within estimate at \$6325 and a Shourds bluebill hen with excellent form, fine patina and in old gunning repaint well over estimate at \$1610.

Three hollow-carved Delaware River decoys that just missed the top 25 sold for \$1380 apiece: a blue-winged teal by Caleb Ridgeway Marter and a black duck by Ed Costello, both of Burlington, and an early gunning black duck with some repaint by John McLoughlin of Bordentown, all three at or above high estimate.

We particularly liked a sculptural hollow-carved black duck by Clark Madara of Pitman, New Jersey that was painted by Lem Ward. It had a wonderful surface and was a bargain at \$1093.

Other Vintage Decoys

Earning second place on the top 25 list was an early pair of hollow-carved mallards made and painted by Charles Perdew of Henry, Illinois at its low-estimate \$9200. They were branded "RES" for Reuben E. Sommer, the co-owner of the Rice Pond Duck Club, and both had their bottom weights removed.

Two decoys by little-known carvers beat their estimates and made the top 25: a very rare red-breasted merganser by Cliff Foster of Hampton Bays, New York caught the attention of many, selling for \$3795, and a



Excellent hollow-carved black duck in near-mint condition, branded "W.C. Lowry," by Harry V. Shourds of Tuckerton, New Jersey, soared to \$69,000, exactly double its high estimate and the high price in the auction..



Hollow Canada goose with bottom board by an unknown maker from Antigonish County, Canada, estimated at \$9200/13,800, failed to sell.



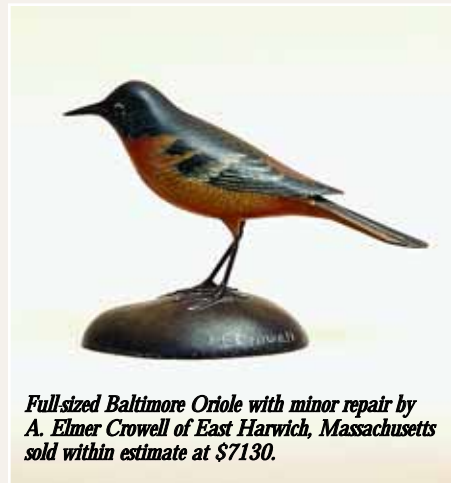
Rare hollow-carved mallard by Henry Kilpatrick of Barnegat, New Jersey sold within estimate at \$6325, possibly an auction record price for this maker.



Pair of hollow-carved mallards, made and painted by Charles Perdue of Henry, Illinois, made their low estimate \$9200.



Blue-winged teal hen competition decoy, made in 1968 by Bob White of Tullytown, Pennsylvania, sold well over estimate at \$3910.



Full-sized Baltimore Oriole with minor repair by A. Elmer Crowell of East Harwich, Massachusetts sold within estimate at \$7130.

rare black duck by William Russell Breit of Stratford, Connecticut, who used Shang Wheeler's actual patterns and painted them very similar to his Stratford neighbor, fetched \$3450.

A canvasback in unrigged condition by Doug Jester of Chincoteague, Virginia sold for \$1495, over double the low estimate. The best of a small group of shorebirds, an early split-tail dowitcher from Massachusetts, attributed to the Folger family of Nantucket, made its low estimate \$1725. Two Massachusetts golden plover missed estimate, selling for \$1035 apiece.

Two canvas-covered Canada geese attributed to George Boyd of Seabrook, New Hampshire attracted little interest, selling well below estimate at \$748 and \$1323.

Crowell Decoratives

A group of full-sized and miniature decorative carvings by A. Elmer Crowell of East



Pair of decorative 1936 model canvasbacks, made and dated 1973, by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland, sold for \$5750, exactly as estimated.



Top 25 Lots at Frank & Frank Decoy Auction

* * * * *
Belmar, New Jersey
October 30, 2005

Rank	Description (catalog no.)	Av. Est.	Price
1.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC black duck (248)	\$28,750	\$69,000
2.	Charles Perdew (IL) HC mallard pair (294)	11,500	9,200
3.	A.E. Crowell (MA) Baltimore Oriole (259)	6,900	7,130
4.	Henry Kilpatrick (NJ) HC mallard (249)	5,750	6,325
5.	Ward Bros. (MD) canvasback pair, dec., 1973 (215)	5,750	5,750
6.	Ward Bros. (MD) bufflehead, dec., 1974 (220)	4,600	4,600
7.	Bob White (PA) blue-winged teal hen (233)	2,300	3,910
8.	Cliff Foster (NY) RB merganser (283)	2,875	3,795
8.	A.E. Crowell (MA) gold finch (258)	4,600	3,795
10.	William Russell Breit (CT) HC black duck (253)	2,300	3,450
11.	A.E. Crowell (MA) black-capped chickadee (260)	4,025	3,335
12.	Lloyd Johnson (NJ) HC Hutchins goose (250)	1,898	2,760
13.	Lloyd Johnson (NJ) green-winged teal pair (251)	2,300	2,300
14.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini sanderling (261)	1,150	1,955
14.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini red-winged blackbird (266)	1,150	1,955
16.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini scarlet tanager (262)	1,553	1,840
16.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini bluejay (265)	1,150	1,840
18.	Unknown Massachusetts dowitcher (286)	2,300	1,725
18.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini eastern bluebird (267)	1,150	1,725
20.	A.E. Crowell (MA) mini robin (263)	1,150	1,610
20.	Harry V. Shourds (NJ) HC bluebill hen, repaint (379)	920	1,610
22.	Delbert "Cigar" Daisey (VA) brant (275)	1,150	1,495
22.	Delbert "Cigar" Daisey (VA) redhead pair (274)	1,150	1,495
22.	Doug Jester (VA) canvasback (273)	863	1,495
25.	Wildfowler (NJ) HC oversized mallard pair (7)	863	1,438
TOTALS		\$98,097	\$145,533

Key: HC – hollow-carved dec. – decorative

The top 25 lots (6.2% of the 404 sold) accounted for \$145,533 (55.6 % of the \$261,739 gross) and was 48% over the average estimate of the top 25.



Canvasback, never rigged, by Doug Jester of Chincoteague, VA sold for \$1495, over double low estimate.

Harwich, Massachusetts placed nine lots on the top 25 list. The best of the group, a full-sized Baltimore Oriole, made estimate at \$7130. The other two full-sized songbirds, a rare goldfinch and a black-capped chickadee, made \$3795 and \$3335, the first within estimate and the second just short.

The miniatures, all topping estimate, were led by a rare sanderling and a red-winged blackbird at \$1955 each, a bluejay and scarlet tanager at \$1840 each, an eastern bluebird at \$1725 and a robin at \$1610. A mini mallard also topped estimate at \$1150.

Ward Decoratives

The best of a small group of carvings by the Ward brothers of Crisfield, Maryland were two decorative lots that sold exactly as estimated: a pair of 1936 model canvasbacks made in 1973 brought \$5750 and a dainty bufflehead with relief wing carving made \$4600.

Contemporary Carvings

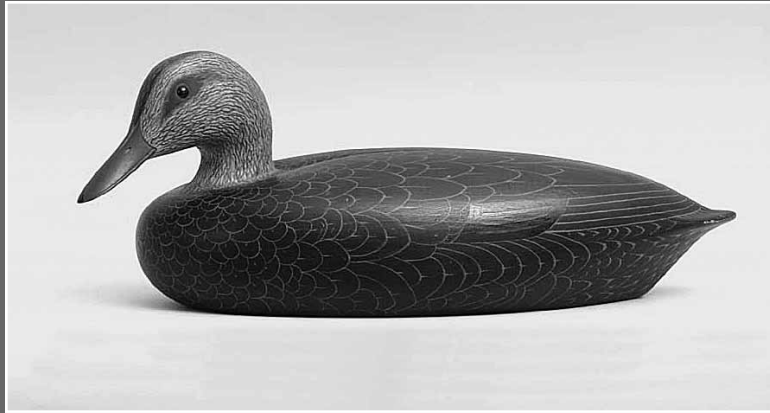
The best of a large and varied group of contemporary decoys was a hollow-carved blue-winged teal hen made by Bob White of Tullytown, Pennsylvania and entered in the 1968 U.S. Nationals decoy competition that sold well over estimate at \$3910. One of his hollow-carved ringnecks made its low estimate \$920.



Hollow-carved Hutchins goose by Lloyd Johnson of Bay Head, NJ topped estimate at \$2760.



Hollow-carved blue-winged teal by Caleb Ridgway Marter of Burlington, NJ sold at its low estimate \$1380.



Rare hollow-carved black duck by William Russell Breit of Stratford, Connecticut, made on a Shang Wheeler pattern, beat estimate at \$3450.



Rare red-breasted merganser by Cliff Foster of Hampton Bays, New York topped estimate at \$3795.

There were two hollow-carved lots by Lloyd Johnson of Bay Head, New Jersey on the top 25 list: a rare Hutchins goose that topped estimate at \$2760 and a pair of green-winged teal within estimate at \$2300.

Two lots by Delbert "Cigar" Daisey of Chincoteague, Virginia, a pair of redheads and an exceptional brant, brought identical prices of \$1430, and both topped estimate.


Frank & Frank generally offers a large group of hollow-carved decoys by Hurley Conklin of Manahawkin, New Jersey, and there were about 20 lots in this sale, topped by Canada goose at \$1380 and a pair of red-breasted mergansers, the hen a preener, at \$1093, both over estimate.

Wildfowler Decoys

Wildfowler collectors should never miss a Frank & Frank auction because there are

always numerous lots available at their sales. This auction began with nearly 100 lots of Wildfowlers, and one lot, a pair of Point Pleasant oversized mallards, made the top 25, selling over estimate at \$1438. Our favorite, a pair of Quogue red-breasted mergansers, made estimate at \$978.

Summary

Of 415 lots offered, 11 lots failed to selling, leaving 404 lots that sold for \$261,739 for an average of \$648 per lot and was 24% over the total low estimate after deducting the \$20,700 total low estimate of the unsold lots. The top 25 lots (6.2% of those sold) accounted for \$145,533 (55.6% of the gross) and was 48% over the total average estimate of the top 25. All prices include a 15% buyer's premium. Bill Barron served as auctioneer. 

The ultimate site for decoy lovers.



Thousands of visitors each month!

C Auction News

See what's coming up!

C Carvers

Links to carvers around the world

C Museums

Upcoming exhibitions

C Classifieds

Buy, sell or trade your decoys online

C Calendar of Events

Events you won't want to miss!

C Books

Books for the collecting enthusiast

C Tidbits

Clips from featured articles

C Free Downloads

Free decoy desktops for your PC

C Great Links

Links to popular decoy sites worldwide

Join our FREE Link Exchange program to bring more traffic to your site!

Don't get lost on the net - advertise with your favorite decoy magazine!

Our award-winning website is the perfect complement to your advertising campaign. You'll be surprised at how affordable it is!

**For more information, call
(302) 644-9001**

www.DecoyMag.com