

brought \$5,175, above the high estimate of \$4,600; a pair of mallards \$4,310 and a pair of canvasbacks \$4,600. At the Harmon auction, while some Angers sold, other seemingly good birds failed to meet their moderate estimates.



Ken Anger redheads, \$5,175 at G&S July auction.

Two of the best of the unusual, old hollow "Markham Rig" decoys sold at high prices but within estimate at the G&S July auction, a drake redhead for \$15,625 and a hen for \$14,660.



Markham rig redhead, circa 1890, \$15,625 at G&S July auction.

Collectors could have obtained good Canadian decoys at relatively moderate prices at these auctions. I have always liked the whistlers made by the Nova Scotia carver, Willard Robertson, and a good pair of his decoys made in 1937 sold for a modest \$690 at the Copley auction. Two Billy Ellis (Whitby) whistler decoys, a drake and a hen, both in fine condition, sold at the Copley auction for \$805 and \$863 respectively, below their estimates. Other examples of decoys in good condition that sold at moderate prices included carvings by Walter Humphries (Toronto), Reg Bloom (Kingston), Cliff Avann (Toronto), Beany Anderson (Trenton), Lawrence Austin (Port Hope), Percy Shupe (Nova Scotia) and Michael Bucklin (Bury, Quebec)



Willard Robertson whistlers, 1937, \$690 at Copley auction.



Ellis whistler, a good buy at \$805. (Copley auction)



Walter Humphries bluebill decoys, early 1900s, \$4,025 at G&S April auction.

A set of five Robert Kerr (Smiths Falls) miniature decoys failed to sell at the April G&S auction but sold at the July G&SW auction for \$520, a bargain price for these fine Canadian decorative miniatures.



Well-carved canvasback from 1950s by Lawrence Austin, Port Hope, \$250 at Copley auction.



Merganser by Percy Shupe (NS), one of several mergansers from Quebec and the Maritimes, sold for \$1,210 at the G&S July auction.



Pintail hen, 1950s, Michael Bucklin, Bury, Quebec, \$115 at Copley auction.

Photos provided courtesy of Copley Fine Art Auctions, LLC; Guyette and Schmidt, Inc.; and Decoys Unlimited, Inc.

TOP 25 AUCTION RECORDS FOR CANADIAN DECOYS

The table lists the top 25 prices for Canadian waterfowl decoys at auction. Most are from American auctions and are in US dollars, including the buyers' premium. Two sold in Canadian auctions are in Canadian dollars. Of the top ten prices, six were for decoys from Eastern Ontario, one was for a decoy from Toronto, two for Hamilton decoys and one for a decoy from Central Ontario. The depth of quality in decoys from Toronto is apparent. In the top 25, 12 were from that area, including those from the "St. Clair Flats." Most of these were made by Chambers, Warin or Wells. Two of the top ten were by unknown makers. Four were hooded mergansers, a species that seems to fascinate decoy and folk art collectors.

For many years, the price of Canadian decoys had escalated steadily. Last year there were seven new entries in the top 25, including one over \$100,000. This year only two new listings were added to the 25.

Rank	Maker	Decoy	Price	Notes
1	William Hart	HC hooded merganser drake	\$203,000	2005
2	Thomas Chambers	HC wood duck drake	\$187,000	2004
3	Ivor Fernlund	HC pintail drake	\$126,000	2007
4	Unknown Central Ontario	hooded merganser drake	\$88,250	2007
5	Samuel Hutchings	hooded merganser hen	\$83,600	2007
6	James Harper	HC canvasback hen	\$80,500	2007
7	William Hart	HC green-winged teal hen	\$63,250	2005
8	Unknown Ontario (Perth)	wood duck pair	\$110,500	2004 PR
9	Bob J. Jones	HC redhead drake	\$51,750	2006
10	Samuel Hutchings	hooded merganser drake	\$51,700	2007
11	Thomas Chambers	HC Canada goose	\$46,000	2007
12	Phineas Reeves	HC Canada goose	\$37,375	2008
13	William Hart	HC hooded merganser drake	\$35,650	2008
14	Samuel Hutchings	hooded merganser drake	\$34,100	2004
15	Thomas Chambers	HC Canada goose	\$33,925	2008 NR
16	Thomas Chambers	HC Canada goose	\$33,000	2002
17	Unknown Toronto School	HC pintail drake	\$31,900	2001
18	Unknown St. Clair Flats	HC swan	\$29,900	2009 NR
19-20	William Humphrey	black-bellied plover	\$28,750	2005
19-20	George Warin	HC canvasback drake	\$28,750	2007
21-22	Unknown St. Clair Flats	HC Canada goose	\$27,600	2004
21-22	George Warin	blue-winged teal hen	\$27,600	2006
23	Thomas Chambers	HC pintail drake	\$27,500	2001
24	John R. Wells	HC canvasback drake	\$26,950	2004
25	Phineas Reeves	HC Canada goose	\$26,450	2005

HC = hollow carved NR = new record for carver since July 1, 2008 PR = pair with price halved for listing order