

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



**A RARE AMERICAN CARVED AND PAINTED WOOD GREAT HORNED OWL DECOY**

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LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 50CM HIGH

## **LITERATURE**

CARVED OR STUFF OWLS WERE USED AS DECOYS FOR CROWS WHICH COULD NOT RESIST HARASSING THEM. CROWS WERE HUNTED AS PESTS OR FOR SPORT WHEN THE GAME BIRD POPULATION DECLINED AND LIMITS WERE PLACED ON THE NUMBER THAT COULD BE BAGGED, AND ON THE LENGTH OF THE SEASON DURING WHICH THEY COULD BE SHOT.

CROWS ARE WARY BIRDS AND HAVING BEEN SHOT AT FOR A WHILE THEY LEARN TO AVOID CONGREGATING IN LARGE FLOCKS ON EXPOSED TREE BRANCHES OR OPEN FIELDS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE A VERY CURIOUS NATURE AND TEND TO FEEL SECURE IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS, SO THIS TRAIT AND THEIR NATURAL ANTIPATHY FOR THE OWL WOULD INCITE THEM TO COME IN AGGRESSIVE FLOCKS TO BOTHER AND SCREECH AND THE DUMMY OWL SO PLAYING THEM INTO THE HANDS OF THE WAITING SPORTING GUNS.

THIS RARE EXAMPLE HAS GLASS EYES AND A BEAK FASHIONED FROM A CLAW AND HAS BEEN MADE TO SIT ON A LEDGE.