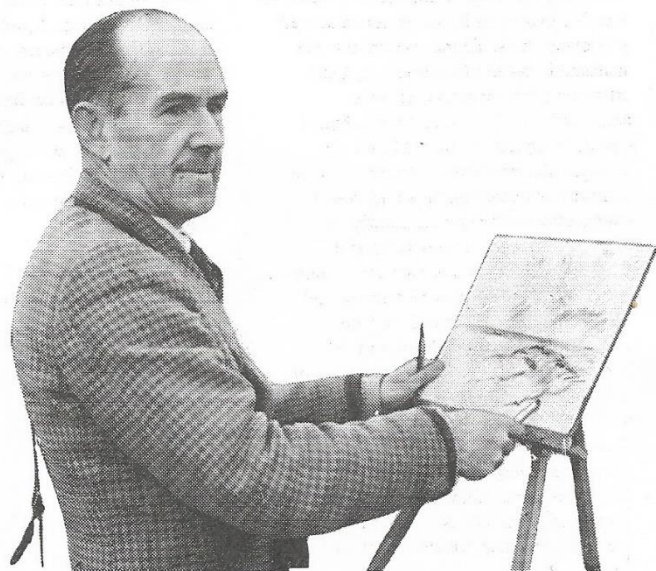




An exhibition of drawings, paintings and published illustrations of the artist-naturalist **Len Fullerton**.



**Cover Illustration—Pine Marten**

A Dundee City Museums and Art Galleries Publication

## Foreword

The drawings and paintings of Len Fullerton have been admired in Scotland and abroad over many years. To me, as a friend and associate in Nature Conservation, Len's art reflects his warm and sensitive personality and love of all that he found beautiful in plant and animal life. He was indeed a true artist-naturalist seeking and carefully studying his subjects with enthusiasm and reverence. Clearly, he found great delight in observing and sketching with meticulous accuracy, some of our more elusive flowering plants and more timorous creatures of the wild countryside. But while his studies led him "to the dear lone lands untroubled of men", I am sure that he was always happy to be in the field with friends who keenly shared his interests and he was the most pleasant and inspiring of companions. His letters to his fellow naturalists were particularly welcome because of his charming drawings which he sent with them.

I believe that Len Fullerton's work is of

special significance at this time when we are faced with urgent problems of land use in relation to nature conservation. Naturalists highly gifted as artists may be few, but their contributions to education can be very important, and while the love of nature persists, pictures such as those in this exhibition will surely continue to be cherished and enjoyed.

*J Grant Roger BSc*  
formerly of the Nature Conservancy

Plate I—Meadow-Pipit and Young Cuckoo



## Introduction

This exhibition is the first attempt to show a selection of works representing a full range of Len Fullerton's output. It is divided into two parts—a section devoted to framed watercolours and a section, with emphasis on the commercial aspect of his work, showing the artwork related to the published end-product.

The paintings were specially mounted and framed for this exhibition, and do not bear true titles. They are listed under the name of the wildlife species.

Selected artwork in the form of unframed sketches, scraperboard drawings and watercolours, accompanying the reproduced form, newspapers, calendars and books, are not itemised in the catalogue. Short general descriptive paragraphs are given.

This exhibition represents the Natural History Section's contribution to the Centenary Celebrations of Dundee City Museum and Art Gallery, 1873—1973.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs Len Fullerton and her daughters Leonore, Clare and Hazel, not only for the loan of all the pictures and associated exhibition material, but for their endless encouragement and advice. The selection of items on show, the compilation of the catalogue and the writing of the biography have been my own responsibility. Finally, grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr Sam Fair, Mr Colin Gibson, D C Thomson & Co Ltd, Jarrold Colour Publications and Valentines of Dundee Ltd, all of whom were most helpful during the initial researches for the exhibition.

D C Thomson & Co Ltd provided the illustration of Len Fullerton, and Jarrold Colour Publications kindly supplied the colour illustrations.

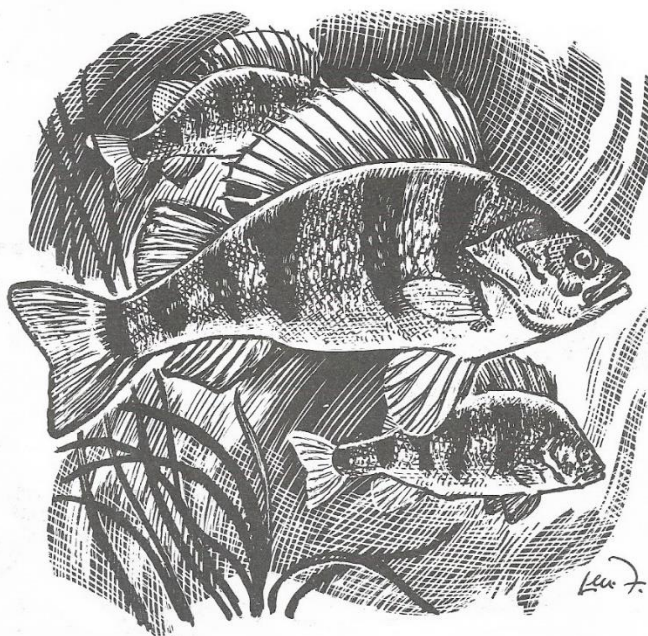
*Adam Ritchie*  
Keeper of Natural History  
Dundee City Museum

## Leonard Fullerton 1909—1968

Len Fullerton's drawings and notes in magazines and newspapers and fine coloured illustrations on greetings cards and in books and calendars, mostly depicting natural history subjects, are known to thousands.

From boyhood, he had a passionate interest in most spheres of natural history—mammals, birds, insects, plants and sea-shore life. And, quite untutored, he expressed this interest in the sketchbook and at the easel, showing remarkable powers of observation and attention to detail. This talent which he developed, eventually earned him his living. In fact, by his late teens he had sold his first drawing, an advertisement picture for the closing sale of an Aberdeen jeweller's shop, and had had a drawing of a tree exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy.

An Aberdonian, he came to Dundee shortly after his schooling, where he took a job as an illustrator in the City's



Perch



“Courier” offices. He married and went to live in Newport-on-Tay where he eventually worked as a freelance artist for the rest of his life.

In the early days, he illustrated boys stories, comic strips—the text for these sometimes written by himself, and romantic fiction. Later, he turned to drawing the subjects that appealed to him most, animals, birds and plants. A great deal of his energies were spent in the field, his favourite haunts being the local shores of the Tay, particularly Tentsmuir not far from his home, for which he had a rather special regard. His thorough knowledge of the wildlife and conservation of Tentsmuir earned him recognition by the Nature Conservancy who made him Honorary Warden of Tentsmuir Point and Morton Lochs National Nature Reserves. Other places he knew well were the Isle of May, the Angus Glens and Ben Lawers.

Plate II—Hoopoe



Dark Green Fritillaries

By this time, Len Fullerton was established as a wildlife artist, producing artwork in the form of nature notes in the "Daily Record" and the now discontinued "Bulletin", and quality colour illustrations for childrens' animal story and nature books, greetings cards and calendars published by such well-known names as Collins, Blackies, Jarrolds and Valentines of Dundee. Peter Scott the eminent naturalist, on a visit to see George Waterson (then Director for Scotland of the R S P B) described Len Fullerton's artistic work as "decorative realism". He paid particular attention not only to the accurate anatomical study of the animal or bird subject illustrated but also to the associated plants which together made up the full composition of most of his pictures.

From time to time his pictures were on show at the Royal Scottish Academy and at the Dundee Art Society and there was a small exhibition of watercolours organised by Dundee Museum but there

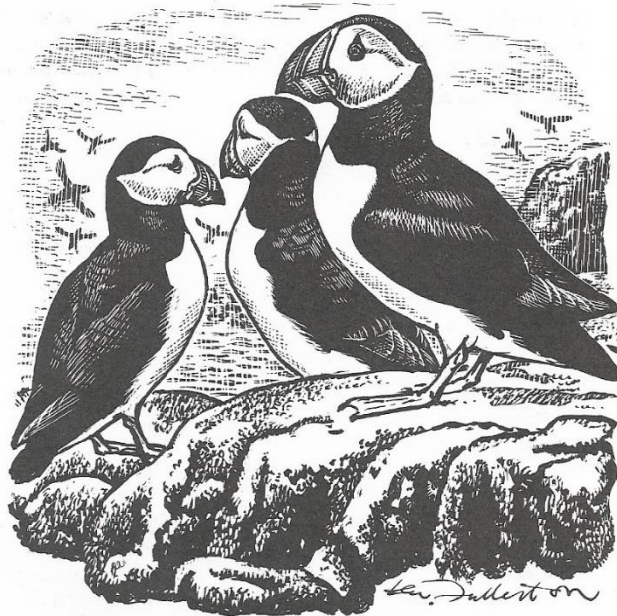
has never been a comprehensive one-man show.

Although a shy and modest man, happiest when using a paint brush or pencil, or absorbed in watching wildlife in the countryside, he frequently delighted audiences with his knowledge of natural history both in lecture halls and on field excursions. His lectures were often illustrated with sketches which he executed while speaking. Latterly, he took to the camera, perhaps merely as a means of communicating his enthusiasm for natural history to larger audiences. He was elected and re-elected President of the Dundee Naturalists' Society.

Len Fullerton did not travel widely, being quite content using a bicycle to transport himself to local places. He crossed the border only on one occasion to visit the wildfowl sanctuary at Slimbridge, near Gloucester; he spent a short period of time as a warden on the island Nature Reserve

of St. Kilda. Family holidays were spent on Deeside, Speyside, in the Orkneys and in Norway.

Right up to the time of his death, he was active in the studio, in the field and in the lecture halls. Those who knew him as a friend and shared common interests, and the many who came to hear him speak, will miss him greatly.



Puffins

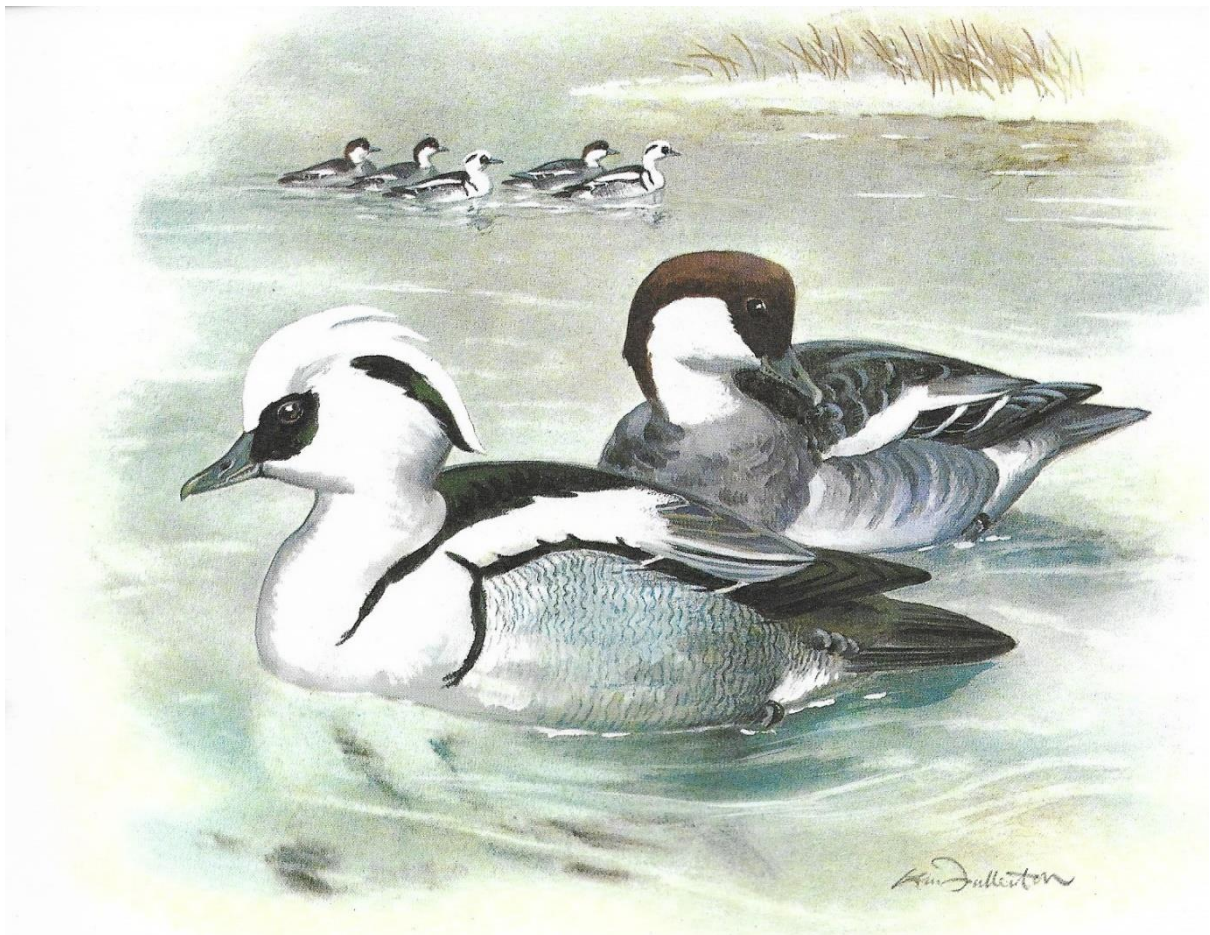
**Watercolours and gouaches of birds  
and animals.**

The majority of these pictures represented the finished artwork which was submitted to the publishing company for reproduction in greetings cards and calendars.

- 1 Bee-eaters
- 2 Dotterel  
adult with young
- 3 Green Woodpecker
- 4 Woodcock  
adult with young
- 5 Puffins
- 6 Kingfisher  
adult feeding young
- 7 Greenfinches
- 8 Dipper
- 9 Red-necked Phalarope  
adults with young
- 10 Avocet  
adult with young
- 11 Snowy Owl
- 12 Long-tailed Ducks
- 13 Golden Eagle
- 14 Dartford Warblers
- 15 Ringed Plover  
adult with young

- 16 Crested Tits
- 17 Hoopoe—Plate II
- 18 Smew—Plate III
- 19 Golden Plover  
adults with young
- 20 Long-tailed Tits
- 21 Osprey
- 22 Teal
- 23 Ringed Plover
- 24 Sedge Warbler
- 25 Goldcrests
- 26 Redstarts
- 27 Coal Tit  
adults with young
- 28 Hawfinch
- 29 Great Grey Shrike
- 30 Stonechats
- 31 Grey Wagtail
- 32 Great Spotted Woodpecker
- 33 Jay
- 34 Long-tailed Ducks  
pair in flight
- 35 Garganey  
pair in flight
- 36 Whooper Swans  
three in flight

Plate III—Smew



- 37 Mole
- 38 Shetland Pony  
adult with foal
- 39 Highland Cattle  
cow with calf
- 40 Pine Marten
- 41 Reindeer calf and adult
- 42 Otter
- 43 Red Deer Stag
- 44 Roe Deer—Plate IV
- 45 Roe Deer  
doc with fawn
- 46 Badger  
adult with young
- 47 Hedgehog  
adult with young
- 48 Harvest Mice
- 49 Red Deer  
five stags in the snow
- 50 Roe Deer  
buck and three does in the snow
- 51 Brown Trout
- 52 Butterflies  
red admiral, small tortoiseshell,  
peacock, dark green fritillary  
and meadow brown.



Badgers

#### Watercolours of plants

These pictures were clearly painted solely for the artist's own pleasure since most of the species illustrated are mountain flowers, a group of plants of which he was most fond. Included, is his favourite flower, Twinflower, *Linnaea borealis*.

- 53 Fragrant Orchid
- 54 Alpine Catchfly
- 55 Meadow Saxifrage
- 56 Twinflower
- 57 Yorkshire Fog
- 58 Mountain Everlasting
- 59 Alpine Saxifrage
- 60 Sea Spurrey
- 61 Alpine Willowherb
- 62 Common Butterwort
- 63 Serrated Wintergreen or  
Yavering Bells
- 64 Great Sundew



Field Gentian



#### “Creechers”

During the war, Len Fullerton worked in an aircraft factory at Dumbarton which produced the Sunderland “flying boats”. When writing home, perhaps to amuse his three daughters, he painted humorous animal cartoons, on the back of the envelopes, depicting little insect-like men who were often engaged in some confrontation with other insects, birds and flowers. A selection of these “Creechers” has been framed specially for the exhibition.

#### Unframed artwork and related published illustrations

Len Fullerton’s talents as an animal illustrator can be seen in a wide variety of publications—birthday cards, Christmas cards, calendars, notebook covers, book and newspaper illustrations, etc. One year Len Fullerton was honoured to have the Queen Mother choose an illustration showing a morning flight of trumpeter swans for her private Christmas card. He has illustrated books and articles written by the following animal story writers and naturalists, Phyllis Kelway, Seton Gordon, Tom Gillespie, David Stephen and James Fisher.

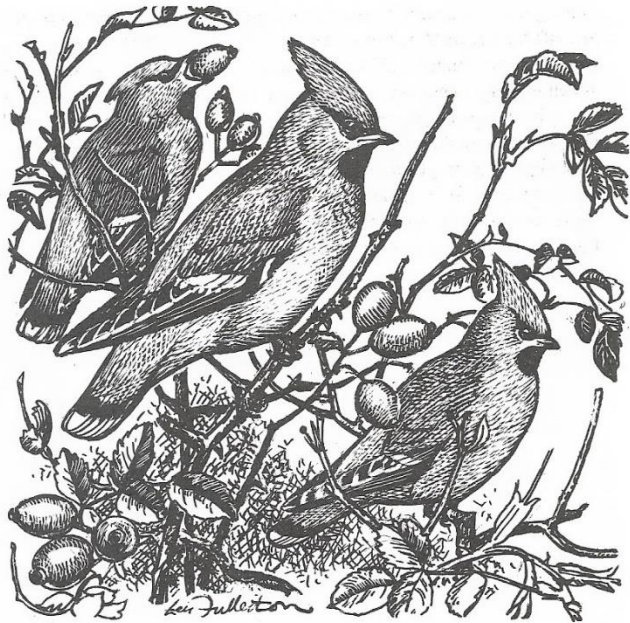
Many readers of the “Daily Record” and the now discontinued “Bulletin” will remember his regular nature notes—“Seen out of Doors”, “In the Wild” and “World of Nature”, and his comic strips—“Starlight”, a cowboy series and “Red Tod”, the adventures of a wild fox. The artwork for these was produced on scraperboard, a technique of illustration of which he liked.

Plate IV—Roe Deer



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