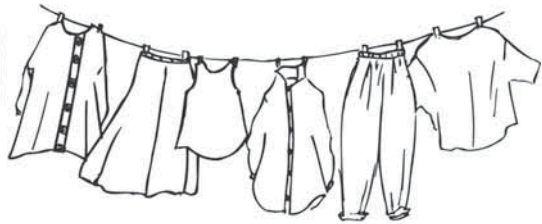


ART & SOUL

Contemporary wearable art, jewelry & crafts

**Come see our
new Fall clotheslines**



**Tianello, Mycra Pac, Willow,
Gertie's and More!**

225 PENN. AVE., S.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 202.548.0105
MON.-WED., FRI., SAT. 11-6 THURS. 11-7 CAPITOL SOUTH METRO



"Working To Make Your Life Easier"

ELECTRONIC FILING AND RAPID REFUND AVAILABLE

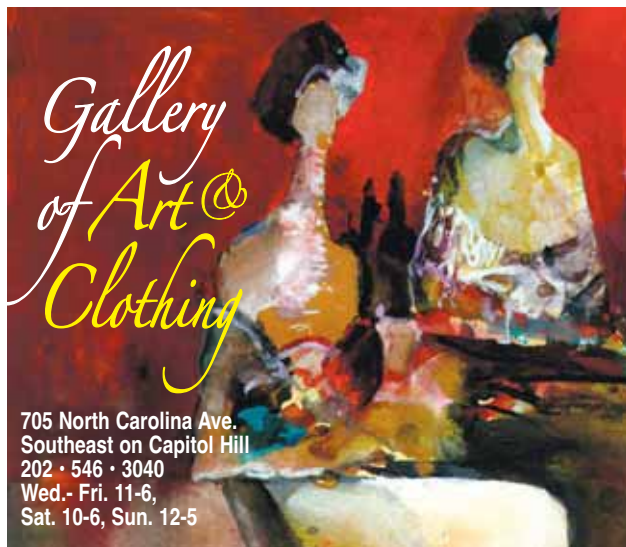
1324 G Street, SE

Phone: (202) 548-0351

Fax: (202) 548-4992

Email: capitolsev@aol.com

Specializing in Individual and Small Business Service



THE VILLAGE
BRALEYART.COM



Spotted on the Hill: Forster's Tern

ARTICLE AND PHOTO
BY PETER VANKEVICH

On a Sunday afternoon last fall, Tom Grahame and Mary Withum invited me on a walking tour of the Boathouse Row at the end of 11th St. on the Anacostia River. While chatting with one of the long-time boat owners on a dock, I turned to my right and noticed this bird perched contentedly on one of the nearby pilings. It was a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), a bird more than worthy of inclusion in the growing family of the Hill Rag's featured birds spotted on Capitol Hill.

The tern family (Sternidae) is related to gulls and differentiated from them because they are usually smaller, faster flying and have both long thin bills and pointed wings. Most North American tern species are generally whitish/light gray in color and in breeding season have a black cap. Once these features are established I start specific identification focusing in on the bill color, tail length and the degree of whiteness, especially in the wings. The Forster's Tern can be distinguished in all seasons from other terns by the bright white of the primary wings. Off-season, it is easily identified by a thick black eye line. An interesting feeding behavior is that it will hover over the water, and then plunge to take a fish from just below the surface.

This is the only tern that breeds exclusively in the United States and Canada. It nests in wetlands with substantial open water of interior North America including Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba and in the salt marshes and estuarine areas of the mid-Atlantic coast. Its wintering grounds are primarily from the mid-Atlantic coast down to the Gulf of Mexico. It is in migration from the coastal areas to the interior and back when they may be seen in the DC area.

This bird is named after Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798), a German pastor-naturalist, who accompanied Captain Cook around the world in 1772.

Beginning in early August, hundreds of Laughing Gulls follow their annual post-breeding dispersal route from the Atlantic coastal nesting grounds to the DC area rivers where they will be present for the next couple

of months before heading to the Caribbean and southeastern coastal areas for the winter. Two weeks ago I took a late afternoon Anacostia river canoe trip from the Anacostia Community Boat House near 11th Street up to Kingman Island and back. The trip, sponsored by the Paddling Club of Sports on the Hill, provided several great views not only of these Laughing Gulls, but also of several Forster's Terns just beginning to molt their breeding season black caps.

I mentioned above that the Forster's Tern was a bird of Capitol Hill. I like to point out periodically the geographic boundaries that I use to define Capitol Hill for purposes of this column. To the east and south is the base – the Anacostia River. To the West, I have carved out the wetlands of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (if you haven't been there recently, check it out!) and the perch areas of the east wing of the National Gallery of Art. I have not been much further north than Lincoln Park in pursuit of new species.

If you are up for a long weekend and would like to see Forster's Terns and lots of other great birds this fall, a trip to the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge would be a nice weekend getaway.

Wow! I managed to get through this column without one of those corny "one good tern" puns. Now that is what I dub "discipline."

In spite of my rather diligent weekends photographing birds here, I still don't have decent pics of either the White-breasted or Red-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, and even the raucous Blue Jay. So if you have any of these birds visiting a feeder on Capitol Hill in the next couple of months that could be a possible feature for this column, or would like to join me for a stroll on the Hill with your binoculars or camera on a weekend morning, feel free to contact me, petevankevich@gmail.com. ★



Visit Our website for first-time client offers

www.randolphcree.com

Eastern Market's Own
Randolph Cree

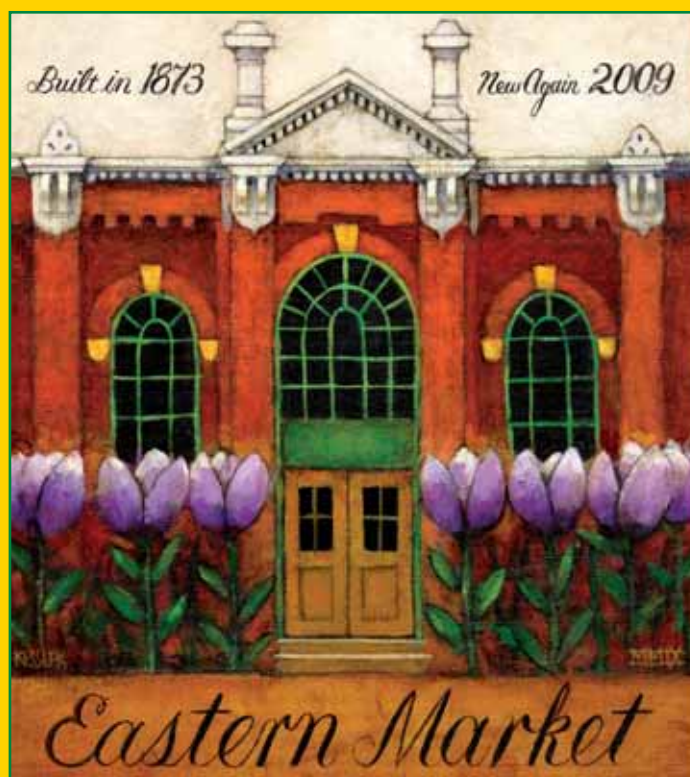
Full Service Hair Styling
for the Whole Family

Randolph Cree
325 7th Street, SE • Second Floor
202-547-1014



EXPERIENCE EASTERN MARKET TODAY!

And Enjoy Tasty Treats at the Outdoor Poolside Patio...



TUE - FRI 7-7 SAT 7-6 SUN 9-5 MON - Closed
EasternMarketDC.com

Come experience the completed 2-year restoration and shop all of the fantastic merchants, vendors, and farmers! On the weekends, stop by the popular **Poolside Patio** (featured in *The Washington Post*) which includes eclectic local favorites from the following vendors:

- ★ Tea-Co
- ★ Sweet Nuthouse
- ★ Crepes at the Market
- ★ Hondo Coffee
- ★ Pretzel Twist
- ★ In a Pickle

Eastern Market is DC's Largest Ongoing Craft, Artisan, and Flea Market – Over 175 Exhibitors!



225 7th Street, SE ★ On Capitol Hill
Eastern Market Metro

Department of Real Estate Services, DC Government ★ Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor