since 1965

that time he and his wife Ester had a
large art and bird studio very near his
present location.

He was the bridge which most of us
cannot be between the general public
and the highest eschelons of the avicultu-
ral world. Erling fielded 20-plus calls
every single day and into the night
which most of us would consider
nothing short of nuisance. He enter-
tained myriads of school classes at his
famous shop and was featured countless
times in sections of the Chicago Tribune
and Sun. In that way his promoting the
fancy was unparalleled.

As an aviculturist he was a natural.
Erling was among the first private
breeders to produce macaws in an 8
foot cage suspended from his 20 foot
ceiling in 1954. All the while, 50 to 100
people passed under that cage every
day. He bred many of the pet birds in his
shop and maintained a small, private
garden aviary in his back yard (he lived
alternately in and above his shop for 30
years). His ability to hand train parrots is
legendary. He had many free flying
birds at his shop, including softbills, all
of which were hand-tame.

He was a founding member of the
Illinois Budgerigar Society and The Old
Town Art Fair (one of the largest art fairs
in the United States). He was prominent
in civic affairs in Old Town and was a
popular figure on the streets when he
was not in his shop (open 7 days a week
for 38 years). He judged countless
hookbill, finch and softbill sections in
the midwest and around the nited
States for many years. He was one of the
first to import exhibition budgerigars to
this country. He won many awards with
them in the early and mid-1950s. He
supported the Greater Chicago Caged
Bird Society for years with exhibits and
displays for which he was justifiably
famous.

Although he lived and kept his shop
in a semi-dangerous neighborhood in
which gang wars were a weekly occur-
rence, his reputation and bearing kept
him as safe as if he had never left the
plains of North Dakota which he loved
so well.

As one of the many young students
he took under his wing,

In Memory of
Erling Kjelland
(1912-1986)

The avicultural world was grated to
learn of the death of one of its most dis-
tinguished members. Erling Kjelland
was born in Valley City, North Dakota.
He served in the navy and on his return
set up a small art and craft shop in “old
town” section of Chicago. He and his
wife taught at the Chicago Art Institute
and decorated windows in many of the
major department stores in Chicago. His
wife bought him some budgerigars for
his birthday and soon they had an art
and bird shop.

Erling was the sole owner and
operator of Sedgwick Loft Studio since
1948. He kept between 1,000 and 2,000
birds in his shop ranging from hornbill
to crimson seed crackers and from
macaws to lorikeets which he bred regu-
larly. For 40 years he was Chicago’s bird
guru (in the finest sense of the word).

I recall meeting Erling in 1952 after I
became a pest in one of the larger
downtown pet shops and the clerk told
me, “Only Erling Kjelland can answer
those questions.” That evening I met
Erling. The pet shop guy was right! At

that time he and his wife Ester had a
large art and bird studio very near his
present location.

He was the bridge which most of us
cannot be between the general public
and the highest eschelons of the avicultu-
ral world. Erling fielded 20-plus calls
every single day and into the night
which most of us would consider
nothing short of nuisance. He enter-
tained myriads of school classes at his
famous shop and was featured countless
times in sections of the Chicago Tribune
and Sun. In that way his promoting the
fancy was unparalleled.

As an aviculturist he was a natural.
Erling was among the first private
breeders to produce macaws in an 8
foot cage suspended from his 20 foot
ceiling in 1954. All the while, 50 to 100
people passed under that cage every
day. He bred many of the pet birds in his
shop and maintained a small, private
garden aviary in his back yard (he lived
alternately in and above his shop for 30
years). His ability to hand train parrots is
legendary. He had many free flying
birds at his shop, including softbills, all
of which were hand-tame.

He was a founding member of the
Illinois Budgerigar Society and The Old
Town Art Fair (one of the largest art fairs
in the United States). He was prominent
in civic affairs in Old Town and was a
popular figure on the streets when he
was not in his shop (open 7 days a week
for 38 years). He judged countless
hookbill, finch and softbill sections in
the midwest and around the United
States for many years. He was one of the
first to import exhibition budgerigars to
this country. He won many awards with
them in the early and mid-1950s. He
supported the Greater Chicago Caged
Bird Society for years with exhibits and
displays for which he was justifiably
famous.

Although he lived and kept his shop
in a semi-dangerous neighborhood in
which gang wars were a weekly occur-
rence, his reputation and bearing kept
him as safe as if he had never left the
plains of North Dakota which he loved
so well.

As one of the many young students
he took under his wing,
TROPICAL FEATHERED FRIENDS CALENDAR

1987
The Ultimate Calendar for
THE BIRD LOVER!

Magnificent, full color Calendar features a different, brilliantly photographed tropical bird atop each month! 12"x12" calendar opens to 12"x24" to hang on wall. The perfect calendar for the bird lover!

$8.95 each + $1.75 shipping for first Calendar
50¢ shipping for each additional calendar sent to same address.

Outside Continental US, please add $2.50 per Calendar for Priority Mail.
OUR SHIPPING CHARGES INCLUDE INSURANCE!

Check or Money Order-U.S. Funds Only
NY Residents add sales tax

THE 14 KARAT PARROT
P.O. Box 246-B
So. Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(718) 474-8331

DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH
THE 14 KARAT PARROT!
Send 22¢ stamp for Color Brochure!