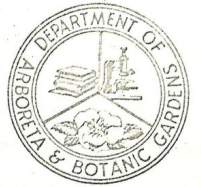


DELASCAN



bimonthly newsletter of the county of los angeles department of arboreta and botanic gardens
prepared by the public information section

April 25, 1969



Typical attitude of duck affected by avian botulism.

ARBORETUM WATERFOWL TO BE INNOCULATED

Beginning in the early summer as the water in the Arboretum lagoons becomes warmer, certain organisms reach a peak of growth. As they die and sink to the bottom, they become food for certain bottom-dwelling bacteria. Among these bacteria is Clostridium botulinum (Type C), which thrives in the absence of oxygen and produces as waste a toxin that is poisonous to waterfowl.

The first records of waterfowl botulism date from 1893, when the disease was known as "Western Duck Sickness". In an epidemic outbreak in 1952, an estimated 5 million ducks died from botulism poisoning in the western states.

At the Arboretum, botulism has been known for some time as "Limpneck" or "Limberneck". In the summer of 1968 over twenty waterbirds died of botulism.

Recently, new techniques have reduced the danger of avian botulism, which, incidentally, has never been recorded as affecting man. When practical, inoculation with Type C botulism anti-toxin can eliminate waterfowl mortality from botulism. In May and June, Arboretum waterbirds will be inoculated with anti-toxin supplied by the Pasadena Audubon Society. The anti-toxin provides 3 to 4 months protection and should see the ducks, geese and swans safely through the botulism season.

INSURANCE REMINDER

The Insurance Section of the Department of Personnel has moved to new quarters in the Hall of Administration with the same phone number for insurance problems: 625-3611, Ext. 65667. Employees should deal directly with health plans only regarding claims and, if desired, regarding CPS-Blue Shield enrollment status.

The County contributes \$8.00 per month toward the cost of any one health plan for a permanent full-time employee. Employees must enroll within 90 days of their employment or wait for an open enrollment period. It normally takes 60 days from the date of enrollment for health insurance to become effective. In addition, employees should check each warrant stub to be sure that deductions have been properly made.

Requests for further insurance information and payroll deduction problems should be referred to Payroll Clerk Charleen Bastion.



Hippeastrum vittatum

The Southern California Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Society will hold its annual flower show at the Arboretum April 26 & 27. The show will be open Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 to 5 p.m.



1960. "Hippeastrum vittatum [April 25, 1969]." *Delascan* 1969, 1.

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