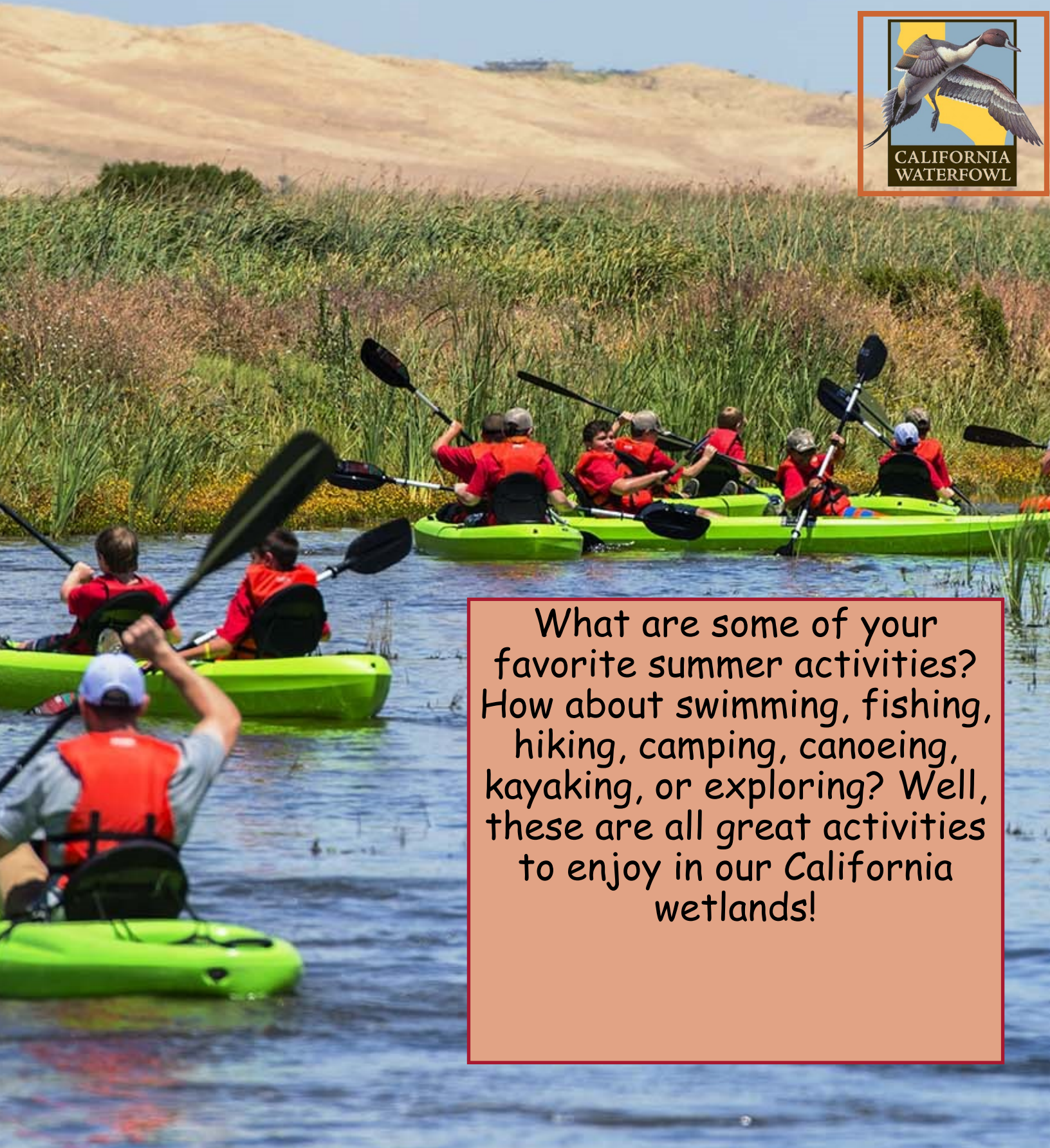




Summer Sprig Tales



What are some of your favorite summer activities? How about swimming, fishing, hiking, camping, canoeing, kayaking, or exploring? Well, these are all great activities to enjoy in our California wetlands!

Summer Wetland Fun!!!

We've had a very wet winter here in the Central Valley, and our mountains have gotten a ton of snow! That means that our wetlands are going to be fantastic areas for fun all summer long this year! As the snow in the mountains melts, all that water will flow down our rivers and fill up our lakes, making activities like swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking and animal watching ideal.



What activities are you going to enjoy this summer?



Try a CWA hunter conservation camp!

- ⇒ Learn a wide range of hunting skills
- ⇒ Learn how to identify waterfowl and about duck calling and duck banding
- ⇒ Learn how to shoot shotguns, rifles and bows
- ⇒ Even enjoy some kayaking and fishing
- ⇒ Get to be active and outside most of the day

You can register today at:

<https://www.calwaterfowl.org/hunter-training/hunter-conservation-camps/>



Wetland Wildlife Watchlist

1. Swallowtail Butterfly

Western Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies love plants like Willow, Cottonwood and Sycamore trees, as well as a plant called Dunn's Lobelia (bottom picture).



Summer is a great time to watch for wetland animals. Bring this wildlife checklist along with you on your summer adventures and see how many you can spot!

2. Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's Hawks are birds of prey, which means they hunt for other animals by soaring and then swooping down at high speeds to catch their prey. Swainson's Hawks are common in riparian areas (rivers and other bodies of water) and have been seen nesting along the American and Sacramento Rivers.



3. Bullock's and Hooded Oriole

The Bullock's and Hooded Orioles look similar to each other. Note the Bullock's black eye line and the Hooded's black face as differences. Both are seen around Cottonwood, Willow, and Sycamore trees. They especially love to build hanging nests in Palm trees.

Bullock's



Hooded



4. Turtles



The three most common turtles found in California wetlands are the Red-Slider Turtle (top), the Western Painted Turtle (center), and the Western Pond Turtle (bottom).

5. Prairie Falcons

Prairie Falcons are another bird of prey and are common near marsh lands because they like open spaces for hunting. Two of their distinguishing features are their dark 'armpits' and small mustache lines on the sides of their faces.



Blackberry Bonanza!

Blackberries grow naturally and abundantly in wetland areas and are a delicious summertime snack! Keep reading to learn how to identify blackberry bushes. Also, try this recipe for a cool summer treat to make with your freshly picked blackberries!

Tips to I.D. Blackberries



You can identify blackberry bushes by looking for thorny dense shrubs that can sometimes form impassable thickets in more wild places.

Blackberry flowers are white with five petals that grow at the tip of the branches during Spring and Summer.



Blackberry leaves are dark green with white fuzz on the surface. The leaves are made up of five leaflets. On the underside of each leaflet is a row of thorns down the center ridge.



Blackberries are ready to be picked starting in July! Below is a scrumptious recipe for Blackberry Sorbet to enjoy on a hot summer's day.

You'll need:

4 cups of blackberries
2 1/2 cups water
2 TBL lemon juice
1/2 to 1 cup cane sugar

Directions:

Rinse blackberries, then combine in a blender with water and lemon juice. Puree until smooth, then press the mixture through a sieve to grab the seeds. In a saucepan, whisk together blackberry juice and sugar. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer. Cook for 1-2 minutes, until sugar is fully dissolved. Remove from heat, transfer to container and let it chill completely in refrigerator. Then place mixture in a shallow pan and freeze. Once frozen, break into pieces and puree in a blender until creamy. Enjoy!



For more information on our education programs or to get involved, contact Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 102 or mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org

For more information and our calendar of events go to www.calwaterfowl.org