

# Things Worth Doing

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There have never in history been so many  
opportunities to do so many things that  
aren't worth doing.

-William Gaddis, novelist; *The Recognitions*, J.R.

Watch the blackbird primp  
for all the female blackbirds  
heading north with spring  
instead of talking on the cell phone.

Instead of jamming that earphone  
into your auditory canal,  
listen as the stars flap the stripes,  
snow hisses over the lavender crocuses.

Don't read the editorial  
about the council meeting or  
the column about where, exactly,  
our strategy in Iraq went wrong.  
Read a poem; read two.

Don't go to Disneyland in Orlando,  
built over a former swamp.  
Instead, find mud.  
Lie on your belly beside it,  
watch until something starts to grow.