

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.