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## *Freedom*

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# FREEDOM

by Donna Emerson

On my back on the floor  
a rustling sound draws  
my gaze straight up to skylight,  
fluttering black wings  
edged in white.

An Eastern Black Swallowtail climbs  
the screen, searching for an opening.  
Back and forth, up then down,  
window closed tight in November.

How did this butterfly come inside?  
As a caterpillar over the summer,  
or on wings, pulled in by wind  
when the door swung open?

I press a bowl over it, clap a lid on top,  
open the porch door,  
in time to see bright blue dots on its wings  
before they spread upward, and aloft.

