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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.

