

# At the Natural History Museum

Pinned upon a board  
as if they are in midflight,

or still for a second  
alighting on a broad leaf,

creatures born for flight,  
trapped in a glass case

until they are discarded,  
consigned to the dark

of some storage basement.  
for newer more exotic

and colorful specimens.  
Only those now extinct

remain upon display,  
valued for their rarity,

their colors dimming  
through the years,

a final statement  
to their transience.

—Bruce Boston