

INVENTORY OF THE NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE HABITATS
OF CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

STEPHEN P. HALL AND MARJORIE W. BOYER

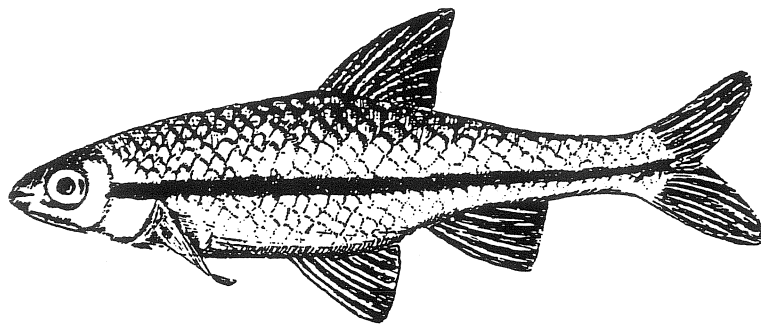
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**TRIANGLE LAND CONSERVANCY
AND
COUNTY OF CHATHAM**

**Cover Illustration by Anne Runyon
White Pine and
Carolina Chickadees**

**Title Page Illustration by Karen Lynch
Cape Fear Shiner**

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SUMMARY

This survey of the natural areas, rare species, and ecosystems of Chatham County was funded through a contract awarded by the Chatham County Commissioners to the Triangle Land Conservancy. The purpose of this study was to inventory the most imperiled of the county's biological resources, the living features of its landscape. This document is intended to provide guidance not only for land-use decisions by the County Planning Department but also for the conservation efforts of the Triangle Land Conservancy, other local conservation organizations, and interested citizens in general. Field work, supervised by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, was carried out by Stephen Hall and Marjorie Boyer between October, 1988 and November, 1990. This report identifies 40 sites significant at the national, state, regional, and county level, as determined by criteria established by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This inventory could not have succeeded without the contributions of numerous individuals. Several organizations were involved in initiating the project. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, under the former direction of Chuck Roe, was originally responsible for promoting this inventory, as well as other county inventories throughout the state. The Chatham County project in particular was initiated as a joint effort by the County Planning Department, headed by Keith Megginson, and the Triangle Land Conservancy, during the presidency of Pearson Stewart. Other TLC members who played a key role in promoting and guiding this project include Julie Moore, Wallace Kaufman, and Benson Kirkman. The Chatham County Commissioners are particularly to be thanked for providing the entire funding for this project.

For technical advice, editorial assistance, and supervision generally, we are indebted to the staff of the NC Natural Heritage Program, both past and present. We would particularly like to thank Chuck Roe, Alan Weakley, Mike Schafale, Harry LeGrand, and again Julie Moore. Other people who provided both information and advice include John Alderman, indefatigable defender of the state's mussels, and Albert Radford, principal author of the vascular flora of the Carolinas. We also drew extensively from the plant and animal lists compiled by Ed Swab for his thesis work on the White Pines Natural Area, and from bird and animal lists supplied by Barbara Roth and Jim Keighton of the New Hope Audubon Society for the New Hope Audubon Eagle Observation Platform and Jordan Lake area generally.

This project would not have been possible without the support of the residents of Chatham County. We would particularly like to thank the following for inviting us to survey their properties: Elaine Chiosso, Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Hester, Walt Heywood, Lois Anne Hobbes, Wally Kaufman, Ken Lessler, Dav Robertson, Donna Schneider, Susy Starnes, Alice Yeaman, Kathy Hundley, and Cathy Sutton. We would also like to thank Gary Phillips, Dolly Hunter and Ann Joyner not only for allowing access to their development sites but also for their willingness to preserve certain key tracts through donation of conservation easements to the Triangle Land Conservancy.

