Racing pigeon makes return to Eau Claire after Menomonie stop

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Editor’s note: The following are excerpts from staff-written blogs posted each week at LeaderTelegram.com

An Eau Claire racing pigeon returned home recently after spending some time in Menomonie near the UW-Stout campus.

Vicki Knutson, a custodian for 15 years at UW-Stout, said the pigeon showed up around Sept. 10 at the Louis Smith Tainter house along Broadway Street.

The bird would sit on the back steps of the building when it rained and also would hang out in the front yard of the historic home. He hung around about a week before Knutson decided she needed to catch him and check on him.

“His color was different than the other pigeons and he had a band on his leg,” Knutson said.

Eventually Knutson realized the pigeon did not seem to be eating and was weakening. She finally caught him and was able to read the band.

Knutson found the Wisconsin State Racing Pigeons website and was able to match the number of the pigeon to Aaron Theiss of Eau Claire.

Knutson was able to feed the pigeon some wild bird seed after she contacted Theiss to learn what was the best food for the bird.

The pigeon had been dropped in Iowa just after Labor Day. However, sometimes pigeons will go where there are wild pigeons.

The pigeon was picked up by another racing pigeon enthusiast in Menomonie who returned the bird to the owner.